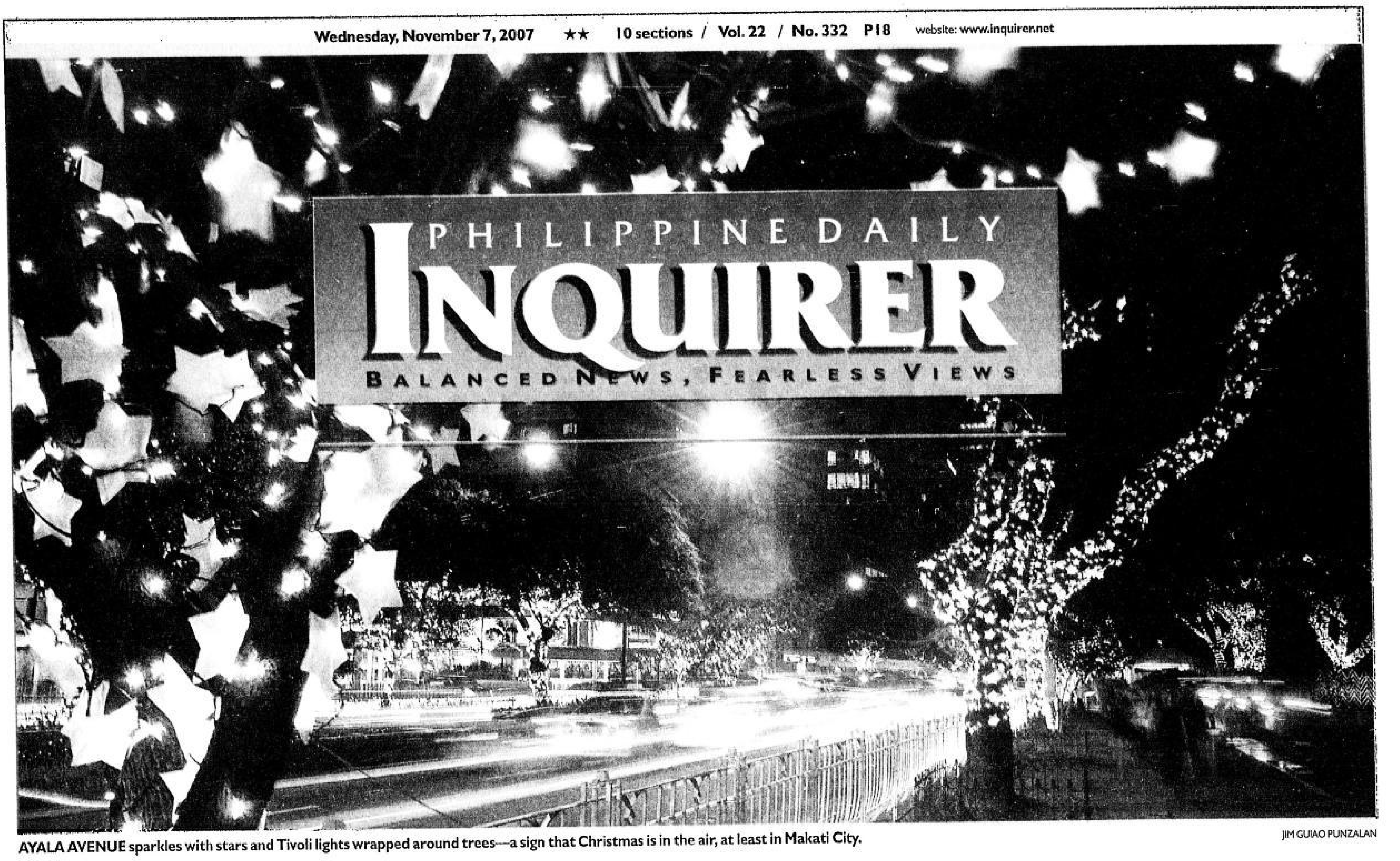
Wednesday, November 7, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 332 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



AYALA AVENUE sparkles with stars and Tivoli lights wrapped around trees—a sign that Christmas is in the air, at least in Makati City. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Kampi admits cash gifts

GMA not involved, says solon

By Christian V. Esguerra

A TOP LEADER OF PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo's party has admitted that she was the source of some of the cash gifts distributed to congressmen during a majority coalition meeting in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa of the House of Representatives yesterday admitted that she was the one who gave Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. P500,000 during that controversial gathering of administration lawmakers.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Villarosa said the money came from the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) as part of what she called "regular help" to coalition members.

"There was no malice in our effort to

KAMPI/ A17

Finally, a boulevard named after 'Ka Pepe'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO DECADES AFTER HIS death, one of the brightest beacons during the dark days of martial law was finally paid homage.

The tribute to former Sen. Jose W. "Pepe" Diokno—activist lawyer and nationalist—is in the form of a 4-kilometer boulevard that runs in front of the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

"It took us 12 years to pass this bill," former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said of Republic Act No. 9468, the law that named the still un-

FINALLY/ A10

CARMEN Diokno (third from right) inaugurates the boulevard named after her late husband, Jose W. "Pepe" Diokno. Guests include (from left) Sen. Joker Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino, Nini Avanceña and other members of Diokno's family.

Not only can Chadleen smile, she can sing!

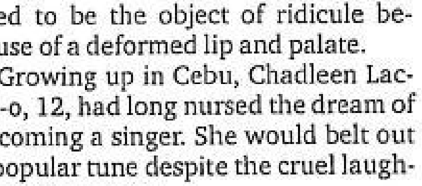
By Julie M. Aurelio

HER BRIGHT EYES AND BUBBLY smile hide the fact that the pretty girl used to be the object of ridicule because of a deformed lip and palate.

Growing up in Cebu, Chadleen Lacdo-o, 12, had long nursed the dream of becoming a singer. She would belt out a popular tune despite the cruel laughter of playmates.

Nearly seven years after a surgical procedure by Operation Smile (OpSmile) Philippines, Chadleen can now

NOT ONLY/ A11


KAILANGAN NG KABATAAN ANG MATINONG GABAY!

Spain's blogging granny a hit with young surfers

SANXENXO, PONTEVEDRA—"TODAY it's my birthday and my grandson, who is very stingy, gave me a blog."

So read the first entry of one of the world's oldest webloggers, Maria Amelia Lopez, who, at the age of 95,

SPAIN'S/ A18

Erap told to pay gov't ₱600M in 5 days

By Kristine L. Alave

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday vowed not to relinquish his home in Greenhills and his sprawling estate in Tanay without a fight, as the Sandiganbayan threatened to seize these assets should he fail to pay the government more than P700 million.

A testy Estrada, who was convicted of plunder but later pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo, faced the media and Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta, who served him the writ of execution at about noon in his residence at

ERAP TOLD/ A18

FORMER President Joseph Estrada (right) faces the media as Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta (left) serves him the writ of execution on Tuesday in San Juan City. JOAN BONDOC

Ingrates, NPC execs call Angono artists

By Jeannette I. Andrade, TJ Burgonio, Fe Zamora and Jerome Aning

ACCUSED OF CENSORING, BASTARDIZING and ruining the press freedom mural it commissioned from a group of artists, the National Press Club (NPC) yesterday turned the tables on the painters, calling them ingrates.

An NPC official even accused the Neo-Angono Artists Collective of subjecting the club to harassment unless it coughed up the full P915,000 for the 8 x 32-foot mural, which he described as overpriced.

"We fed them for two months. We struggled to raise funds to make an honest-to-goodness, true-blue press freedom mural and they do this to us. They bit the hand that fed them," NPC director Joel Sy Egco said.

He pointed out that he had commis-

INGRATES/ A17

US aid to RP 'still a work in progress'

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
and Nikko Dizon
and Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila

BAGUIO CITY—US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney yesterday said that while the US Senate had approved an increase in military assistance to the Philippines, the US House of Representatives was still discussing its version of the aid bill.

Kenney told reporters that like the

US AID/ A17

US envoy backs 'accidental gas explosion' theory

By Vincent Cabreza
and Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE NAtional Police's "accidental gas explosion" theory has found another backer in US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, who said American experts had also concluded that'the Oct. 19 blast at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City was "a tragic accident."

Kenney, who was in Baguio for several engagements, said those saying otherwise should realize what a terror attack in Metro Manila would mean to the country as a whole.

"[An accident in the heart of a city] is never a good thing … but it is much better than having it [turn out] to be a bomb," the ambassador said yesterday.

"If there was a bombing at a shopping mall in the middle of Metro Manila, I want you to think about the kind of travel advisory America would have to put out and the devastating impact that would have on business," she said, adding:

"I don't think investors worry about an accident," although the business

US ENVOY/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The provinces of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Northern Luzon and the western section of Central Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Gusty Winds	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/06/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FrontPage

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(In exact order)

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House junks 2 impeach plaints

Dismissals were swift – less than 24 hours after they were filed

WHAT'S INSIDE

SUMMIT OF 4 living Philippine presidents being pushed /A19

PINOY SEAMEN take seized fishing boat back to Mauritius /A6

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

AS EXPECTED, THE ADMINISTRATION-DOMINATED House of Representatives yesterday junked the two supplemental impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo less than 24 hours after they were filed.

One of the complaints filed by the group of lawyer Harry Roque was rejected as early as Monday night for lack of a resolution of endorsement, according to House secretary general Roberto Nazareno.

Roque said they received the returned copy along with Nazareno's rejection letter at 10:15 a.m. yesterday.

The other supplemental complaint filed by the United Opposition (UNO) was similarly rejected by the committee on justice headed by Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor.

Defensor yesterday said he had written the lone complainant, UNO spokesperson Adel Tamano, to instead send the document to Nazareno.

"If he can't do that, it will become a scrap of paper," he told the INQUIRER, pointing out that the procedure was consistent with the impeachment rules of the 13th Congress.

Roque said his group was not exactly surprised by the dismissal of the supplemental complaint, but did not expect it to come so soon.

"Politically, this means that the majority intends to dismiss all impeachment cases at the soonest time possible," he said in a press conference.

The only impeachment complaint left was the one filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

Tamano had sought to supplement this supposedly "weak" complaint to include Ms Arroyo's alleged involvement in the $329-million National Broadband Network scandal.

A separate network of cause-oriented groups is set to file within the week another "independent" impeachment complaint against the President, according to lawyer Neri Colmenares who is preparing the document.

Roque warned that the immediate dismissal of his group's supplemental complaint spelled trouble for Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"This does not go well for Speaker De Venecia because our analysis is that as soon as the impeachment complaints are dismissed, he himself will be replaced," he said.

Roque was apparently referring to the supposed rift between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia which stemmed from the revelations of the Speaker's son and namesake on the NBN project at the Senate.

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III had told a Senate hearing that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had ordered him to "back off" from the NBN deal. The younger De Venecia had also proposed to undertake the project, but lost out to China's ZTE Corp.

In rejecting Roque's complaint, Nazareno said it could not "supplement" the one filed earlier by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico against Benjamin Abalos, the resigned chair of the Commission on Elections.

"It's a complaint against GMA (Ms Arroyo), so it should have been separate," he said.

Senate to resume NBN probe, but will Joey show up?

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE WILL RESUME ITS probe next week on the alleged bribery attempts in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp. of China, but senators are not sure if star witness Jose "Joey" de Venecia III will show up.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the committee on accountability of public officers and investigations, told reporters he was giving De Venecia the benefit of the doubt when he said he would return to the Senate after the well-publicized "truce" last week between his father, Speaker Jose de Venecia, and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The younger De Venecia was abroad to watch a concert and had yet to confirm his return, said Sen. Francis Escudero.

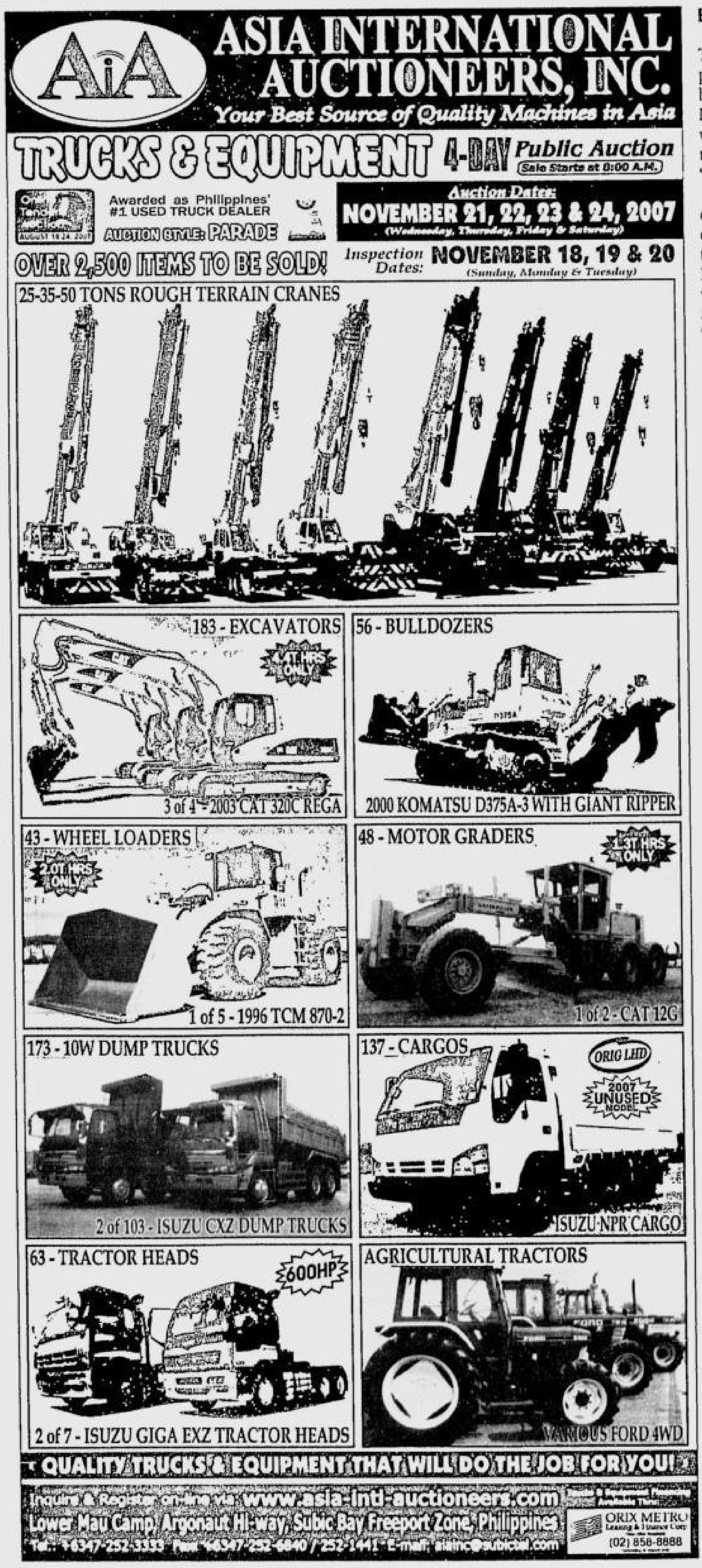
De Venecia earlier implicated the President and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in the NBN deal. This triggered rumors that Speaker De Venecia would be ousted by the ruling coalition.

The lawyer of the young De Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), however, said Joey was willing to deliver on his promise to return to the Senate but he had not received a formal invitation to do so.

"There is no turning back on that," said AHI lawyer Marinelle O'Santos, who confirmed that Joey was out of the country.

On the other hand, Rep. Neptali Gonzalez II said the truce between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Speaker depended on Joey refraining from firing any more charges against the President and her family.

"If that happens, all bets are off," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "You can no longer blame the President's allies if they make an ouster move," he added.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ORIX METRO

'Kabayan' leaves; another disturbance spotted

By Jerome Aning

TROPICAL STORM "KABAYAN" intensified into a typhoon, slowing down as it left the Philippines yesterday, the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 5 p.m. advisory the typhoon remained almost stationary in the last six hours, bringing monsoon rains to western parts of the country.

Pagasa also said it was monitoring a new active low pressure area estimated to be 320 kilometers east-northeast of Borongan, Eastern Samar. The disturbance will be named "Lando" if it becomes a storm.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, "Kabayan" was placed at 230 km west of Laoag City, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kph in the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, Pagasa said.

The typhoon has been moving westward at 9 kph and is expected to be 450 km west of Laoag by this afternoon.

If there is no change in its speed or direction, the typhoon is expected to be 700 km west of Dagupan City tomorrow.

Still under storm signal No. 1 are Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. All other storm signals elsewhere have been lowered.

Residents in coastal areas under public storm signal No. 1 have been alerted against possible big waves generated by this typhoon. Those living in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes are advised to take necessary measures against possible flash floods and landslides.

The Batanes group of islands will continue to experience strong winds with rough to very rough seas due to the surge of the northeast monsoon.

Pagasa is advising the public and the disaster coordinating councils concerned to take appropriate actions and to watch out for the next weather bulletin.

The provinces of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur will have rains and gusty winds and coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough.

The rest of northern Luzon and the western section of Central Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

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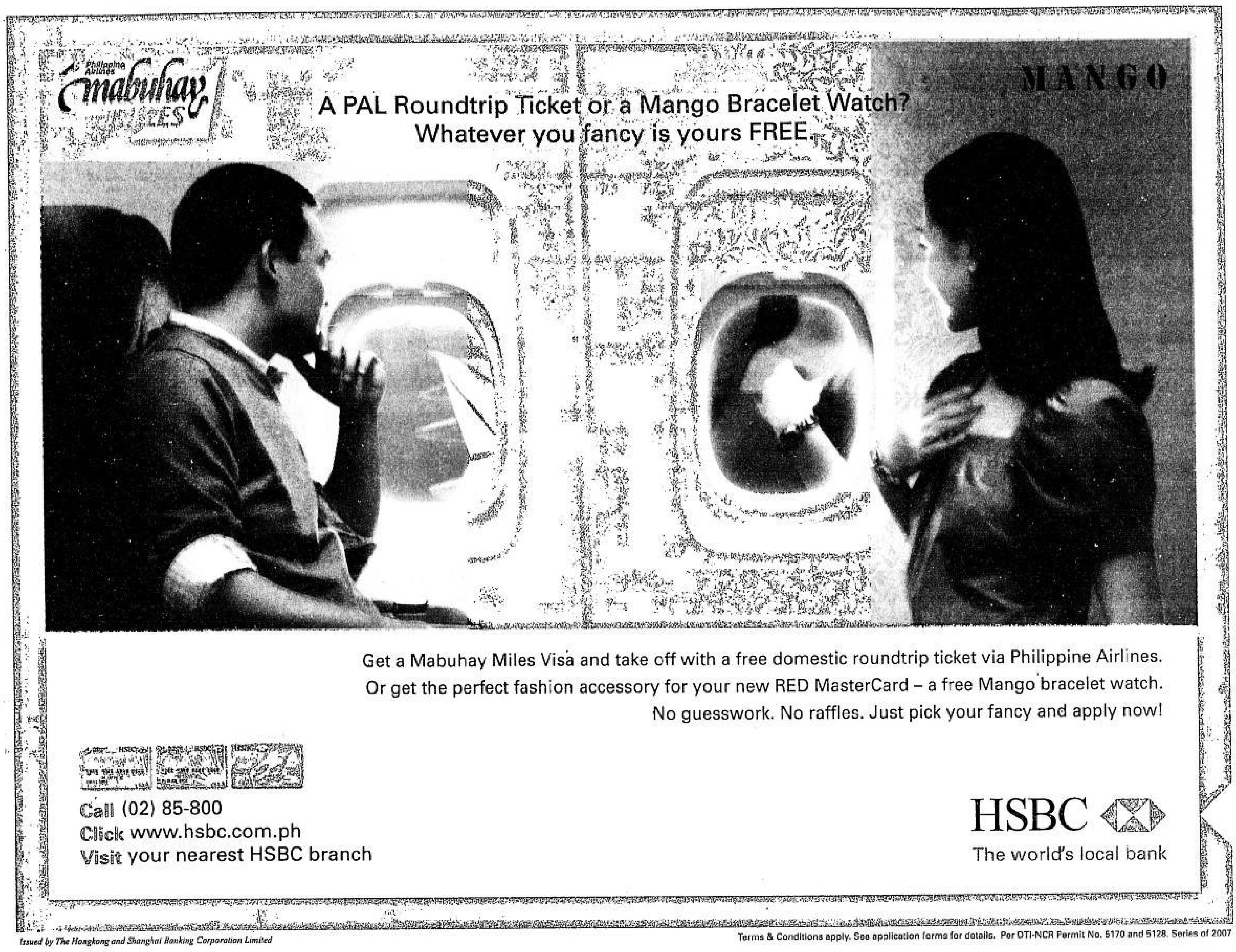
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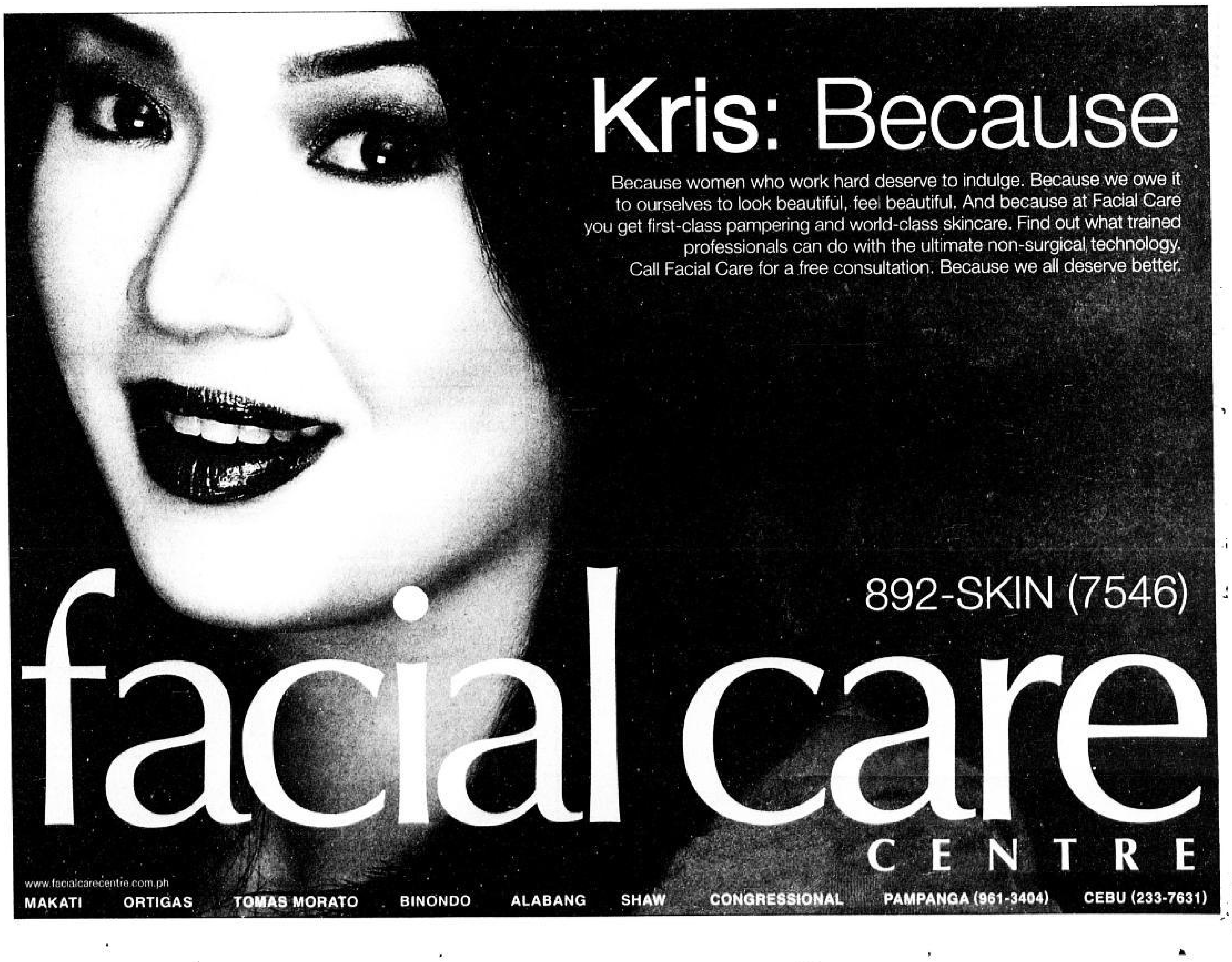
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PRINT TOWN

Splash Corporation Application and Settlement Procedures for Local Small Investors

1. The Local Small Investors ("LSI") program will be managed by the Joint Lead Underwriters, who are tasked to receive LSI applications from 9:00 a.m. November 6, 2007 to 12:00 nn of November 12, 2007.
2. Upon application, an LSI applicant is required to submit the following documents:
   Four (4) copies of the fully accomplished Splash Corporation Application to Subscribe/Purchase and one (1) copy of a duly executed signature card which can be secured from First Metro Investment Corporation or SB Capital Investment Corporation.

FIRST METRO INVESTMTENT CORPORATION

Binondo
G/F Wellington Building
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila
Tel Nos. 241 4301 to 07

Makati
20/F GT Tower International, Ayala Avenue
cor. H.V. Dela Costa Street, Makati City
Tel Nos. 840 5751 / 858 7900

SB Capital Investment Corporation
18/F, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel Nos. 867 6788

Photocopy of two (2) valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport or PRC). For joint accounts/multiple investors in one application, two (2) valid IDs per account/investor are also required.
Payment (cash or Metro Manila clearing check). All check payments must be made payable to "Splash IPO" and dated as of the date of submission of the application and crossed for deposit.

3. As required by the PSE for all subscribers to the IPO shares, LSI applicants should lodge his/her shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") and is required to nominate a PDTC participant (subject to the latter's confirmation) to whom his/her shares will be lodged. The broker is required to sign-off on the LSI's fully accomplished Splash Corporation application to purchase.
4. Multiple bookings (two or more applications by the same applicant) will not be allowed. Each LSI applicant may subscribe to not more than PhP 25,000 worth of IPO shares.
5. The duly received and accepted application of the LSI applicant will be made available for distribution at the office where the applicant submitted his/her application three (3) trading days after listing date.
   Prior to the release of the duly received and accepted application, an LSI applicant is required to present any valid ID for proper identification while the representative of the LSI applicant is required to present an authorization letter and proper identification documents.

IN 4 COPIES:
WHITE - Applicant
BLUE - Stock Transfer Agent
PINK - Underwriter
YELLOW - Acknowledgment copy

SPLASH CORPORATION

No.

APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE/PURCHASE

Initial Public Offer of 223,848,107 Primary and Secondary Common Shares ("Offer Shares")

This Application Form, to be completed in four (4) copies, together with one (1) duly executed signature card, payment by appropriate check and all required attachments must be received by the Joint Lead Underwriters or designated Receiving Agent not later than 12:00 noon, Manila time, on 12 November 2007. Applications received thereafter or without the attachments specified below will be rejected. This Application is irrevocable and once received, may not be withdrawn by the Applicant.

Splash Corporation ("Splash" or the "Company") and Splash Holdings, Inc. (the "Selling Shareholder") (collectively, the "Offering Companies") through First Metro Investment Corporation and SB Capital Investment Corporation as Joint Lead Underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, this Application. Applications improperly or incompletely accomplished may be rejected. In case of over-subscription, the Offering Companies, by themselves or through the Joint Lead Underwriters, reserve the right to allocate the Offer Shares available to Applicants in the manner they deem appropriate.

Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the final Prospectus dated 6 November 2007, filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") on 6 November 2007 and uploaded on the PSE's website, as may be amended or supplemented.

An Application, once accepted and approved by the Offering Companies, through the Joint Lead Underwriters, shall constitute a binding subscription and purchase agreement between the Offering Companies and the Applicant for the subscription/purchase of the Offer Shares at the time, in the manner, and subject to (a) the conditions set forth herein; (b) the Offering Companies' receipt of the appropriate payment from the Applicant; (c) the successful listing of the Offer Shares in the PSE; and (d) upon the underwriting and purchase obligations of the Joint Lead Underwriters, the Co-Lead Underwriters and the Participating Underwriters (collectively, the "Underwriters") becoming unconditional and not being suspended, terminated or cancelled, on or before such listing.

APPLICATION

I/We apply to subscribe/purchase SPLASH CORPORATION Offer Shares under the terms and conditions stated herein and in the Prospectus for the Offer, as follows:

NUMBER OF OFFER SHARES*	SUBSCRIPTION/PURCHASE PRICE PER OFFER SHARE	TOTAL SUBSCRIPTION/PURCHASE PRICE OF OFFER SHARES (no. of Offer Shares x Price per Share)
	₱ 8.98	₱

* All orders must be in minimum lot sizes of 1,000 Offer Shares. Incremental orders must be in lot sizes of 1,000 Offer Shares only.

Failure to follow these conditions may result in the scaling down or rejection of the Application.

PDTC LODGEMENT

All Offer Shares shall be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC"). The Applicant must provide the information required for PDTC-lodged shares. The Offer Shares will be lodged by the Company with the PDTC on or before the Listing Date.

THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW. THE APPLICANT'S FAILURE TO DO SO OR THE PROVISION OF INCOMPLETE OR FALSE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED HEREIN, MAY LEAD TO THE REJECTION OF THIS APPLICATION. THE COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR SCALE-DOWN SUCH APPLICATION.

Information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares (to be completed with the assistance of the PDTC Participant appointed by the Applicant) ____________________ Stockbroker/PDTC Participant Firm, PDTC Participant Code, PDTC Sub-Account Code	Account Number/Code: __________ OR Applicant's Birthdate: (____/____/____) MM DD YY	We confirm that we are a PDTC Participant and that the Applicant named in this Application is our *bona fide* client. ____________________ Signature of Authorized Signatory of Stockbroker / PDTC Participant

PAYMENT

The Offer Shares must be paid for with check drawn against a bank account with a *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, and made payable to "Splash IPO".

TYPE OF CHECK	DRAWEE BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
☐ Personal ☐ Corporate ☐ Manager's / Cashier's			

REPRESENTATIONS WARRANTIES AND AUTHORIZATION

I/We represent and warrant that all information contained herein and the attached documents are true and correct. I/We warrant having read and understood and relied solely upon the provisions of the Prospectus and the terms and conditions stated within this Application, and unconditionally accept said terms and conditions. I/We understand that no person has been authorized to give information or to make any representation with respect to the Offer Shares other than those specified in the Prospectus. The Applicant hereby instructs and authorizes the Offering Companies and/or the Joint Lead Underwriters to execute any application form or other documents and generally to do all such other things as the Offering Companies or the Joint Lead Underwriters may consider necessary or desirable to effect the registration in the name of the Applicant of the Offer Shares applied for, or any lesser number in respect of which an Application may be accepted, in the Stock and Transfer Book of Splash. The Applicant undertakes to sign all documents and to do all other acts necessary to enable the Applicant to be registered as the owner of the Offer Shares applied for or any lesser number in respect of which the Application may be accepted, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of Splash Corporation and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

NAME OF APPLICANT (IN PRINT)	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		DATE
ADDRESS	NATIONALITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER/S	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT (Applicants should not fill in this section)

To be completed by the Trading Participant / Underwriter	To be completed by the Stock Transfer Agent for and on behalf of the Company
Application received: By: __________ Date/Time: ________ Name of Trading Participant/Underwriter and Authorized Signatory	Application accepted and approved by: Total Number of Offer Shares Accepted ________ By: __________ Date: ________

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION

For Individual Applicants (Please note that individual applicants are required to personally submit their applications):

☐ A duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
☐ Photocopies of any two valid and current government issued identification (passport, driver's license, SSS, GSIS or PRC) with the Applicant's picture and signature;

For Corporate Applicants

☐ A duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
☐ A certified true copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary;
☐ A certified true copy of the SEC Certificate of Registration of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary; and
☐ A duly notarized certificate of the Applicant's corporate secretary that sets out (a) the resolutions of the Applicant's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the subscription/purchase of the Offer Shares subject of the Application and designating signatories for the purpose; (b) the specimen signature of such designated signatories and (c) the percentage of capital stock owned by Filipinos.
☐ For foreign corporate and institutional Applicants of Offer Shares, in addition to the foregoing documents, a certification representing and warranting that their investing in the Offer Shares will not violate the laws of their jurisdiction and that they are allowed to acquire, purchase and hold the Offer Shares.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SUBSCRIPTION/PURCHASE OF OFFER SHARES IN SPLASH CORPORATION.

The terms and conditions of the Offer are found in the Prospectus dated 6 November 2007. For a summary description of the Terms of the Offer, the Applicant is advised to refer to the section entitled "Summary of the Offer" in the Prospectus.

1. **The Offer** - The Offer, consisting of 223,848,107 Offer Shares to be issued and offered by Splash Corporation, Inc. and the Selling Shareholder (collectively, the "Offering Companies"). Of the total Offer Shares, 44,769,621 Offer Shares are being offered for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE and 22,384,811 Offer Shares are being offered to Local Small Investors ("LSI").

2. **Eligible Investor** - Investment in the Offer Shares is open to any person of legal age or duly organized and existing corporations, partnerships or other corporate entities regardless of nationality or citizenship.

3. **Offer Price** - The Offer Price for the Offer Shares is P8.98 per Offer Share.

4. **Offer Period** - The Offer Period shall commence on 6 November 2007 and shall close on 12 November 2007 for LSIs, PSE Trading Participants and investors. The Company and the Joint Lead Underwriters hereby reserve the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period at any time, with the approval of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission and Philippine Stock Exchange.

5. **Subscription Amount** - Applicants may subscribe to a minimum of 1,000 shares and, thereafter, multiples of 1,000 only. Any other order amount may be rejected or adjusted to conform to the required multiple at the discretion of the Company.

6. **Application and Acceptance** - A duly and fully accomplished Application in four (4) copies together with one (1) duly executed signature card, payment by check drawn against a bank in Metro Manila and made payable to "Splash IPO", and required documents must be received by the Joint Lead Underwriters and/or the designated Receiving Agent on or before close of the Offer Period. **Multiple applications by one Applicant will not be allowed.**

The Offering Companies, through the Joint Lead Underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any Application. Applications where checks are dishonored upon first presentation and Applications which do not comply with the terms of the Offer shall be rejected. Moreover, receipt of any payment pursuant to the Application does not mean approval or acceptance by the Offering Companies of the Application.

An Application, once expressly accepted by the Offering Companies, through the Joint Lead Underwriters, shall constitute a purchase agreement between the Company and/or the Selling Shareholder and the Applicant for the subscription to/purchase of the Offer Shares in the number approved by the Offering Companies at the time, in the manner, and subject to the conditions found in the front portion of this Application.

7. **Payment** - The Total Subscription/Purchase Price shall be paid in full in Philippine currency upon the submission of a duly executed Application, signature card, and other required documents. Applicants shall pay for the Offer Shares through a check drawn against a bank account with a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ("BSP")-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, made payable to "Splash IPO', and crossed "Payee's Account Only".

8. **Issue Taxes** - All standard taxes applicable to the issuance of the Offer Shares pursuant to the Offer shall be for the sole account of the Company and/or the Selling Shareholders.

9. **Refunds** - In the event that an Application is rejected, then the Offering Companies shall refund payment made thereon, without interest, within five (5) Banking Days from the end of the Offer Period. All refunds shall be made through the Underwriter or Selling Agent with whom the Applicant has filed the Application, at the Applicant's risk.

10. **PDTC Lodgment** - All of the Offer Shares will be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp. ("PDTC") on or before the Listing Date. **The Applicant must provide the additional information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares.**

11. **Issuance and Delivery of Stock Certificates** - The Applicant may request his/her ownership of the Offer Shares to be evidenced by stock certificates issued in his/her name as evidence of ownership through his/her broker only after the Offer Shares have been listed. The cost of the issuance of stock certificates shall be for the account of the Applicant.

12. **Registration of Foreign Investments** - The BSP requires that investments in shares of stock funded by inward remittance of foreign currency be registered with the BSP if the foreign exchange needed to service capital repatriation or dividend remittance will be sourced from the banking system. The registration with the BSP of all foreign investments in the Offer Shares shall be the responsibility of the foreign investor.

13. **Representation and Warranty of Foreign Investors in the Offer Shares** - Applicants who are not Philippine citizens or which are corporations that are not Philippine nationals represent and warrant that their investment in the Offer Shares being applied for will not violate the rules of their respective jurisdictions, and that acquiring and investing in the Offer Shares are permitted in such jurisdictions. The Offer Shares have not been and will not be registered under the securities laws of any other jurisdiction aside from the Philippines, and may not be offered or sold in any other jurisdiction aside from the Philippines.

14. **Timetable**

Start of Offer Period	9:00 am, 6 November 2007
Deadline for Submission of Applications...	12:00 nn, 12 November 2007
End of the Offer Period	12:00 nn, 12 November 2007
Listing Date and Commencement of Trading of the Common Shares on the PSE...	15 November 2007

15. **Local Small Investors**

The Company plans to make available up to 20% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE and up to 10% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Local Small Investors. The term "Local Small Investors" is defined as a share subscriber or share purchaser who is willing to subscribe or purchase a minimum board lot or whose subscription or purchase does not exceed P25,000. Should the total demand for the Offer Shares in the Local Small Investors' subscription exceed the maximum allocation, the Joint Lead Underwriters shall allocate the Offer Shares by balloting. Should the total demand from Local Small Investors be less than the 10% allotted to them, the unsold allocation shall be reallocated back to the Joint Lead Underwriters for distribution to the general public.

An interested Local Small Investor may secure the Application and signature card from the Joint Lead Underwriters and submit 4 copies of the Application (1 original and 3 copies), 1 copy of a duly executed signature card and photocopies of 2 valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g. SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport, and PRC). The Local Small Investor should submit the required documents and payment to the Joint Lead Underwriters on or before the close of the Offer Period.

SPLASH CORPORATION

SPECIMEN SIGNATURE CARD

Account Code: ________________
○ INDIVIDUAL ○ CORPORATE

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED.
Any alteration in the signature card must be signed in full by the applicant.

For individual applicants only: (For corporate applicants, use reverse side.)

Full Name ________________________
(Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Complete Mailing Address ________________________

BIRTHDATE	TEL. NO.
T.I.N.	CITIZENSHIP

For Applicants with no T.I.N., please make sure to indicate your birthdate in this signature card.

Specimen Signatures for Individual Applicants:

I hereby declare under pain of perjury that all the information contained herein are true, correct and of my own personal knowledge.

1) ________________ 2) ________________

Important: Certificates will not be transferred unless a specimen signature of the stockholders is on file with the Stock Transfer Agent of the Company. For your protection, please fill out this card and return to:

Stock Transfer Services, Inc., 8th Floor Phinma Plaza, 19 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

---

FOR CORPORATE APPLICANTS ONLY

COMPANY NAME :
ADDRESS :
T.I.N. :
TEL. NO. : **E-MAIL:**

List of officers authorized to sign and endorse stock certificates issued in the name of the Corporation:

We hereby declare under pain of perjury that all the information contained herein are true, correct and of our personal knowledge.

Specimen Signatures

Name ________________ 1) ________________
Position ________________ 2) ________________

Name ________________ 1) ________________
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Misuari allowed to fly to Jeddah for talks

DETAINED MUSLIM LEADER NUR MISUARI is set to fly yet again to Saudi Arabia to attend tripartite talks over the weekend in Jeddah after a Makati court granted him leave to travel.

Judge Winlove Dumayas ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to issue passports to Misuari and his spiritual adviser, Ustadz Usman, Misuari's coaccused in the rebellion case against him who will be traveling with him.

Misuari, who is under house arrest, will be away from Nov. 10 to 12 for the Jeddah meeting which the Organization of the Islamic Conference will be mediating and which will review the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front which Misuari founded and led.

While the prosecution did not object to Misuari's petition to travel, it set requirements that the court said must be strictly followed.

Among these are sufficient security, strict compliance with the itinerary and a commitment from Misuari not to "engage in any form of political or other activity... that will be inimical to the Philippine government."

Dumayas also required Misuari's lawyer, Arthur Lim, to guarantee that his client would return to his place of detention not later than Nov. 13, and submit a report on their compliance not later than Nov. 19.

The court also granted Misuari's request to be allowed to perform the *umrah* in the Muslim holy city of Mecca. The *umrah*, a pilgrimage that is undertaken by Muslims at any time of the year, is sometimes called the minor or lesser pilgrimage, the hajj being the major pilgrimage which is compulsory for every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it. *DJ Yap*

NOTICE

The AY (Yuchengco/AYF) Foundation, Inc. would like to advise the public against any message received through any medium, such as, but not limited to, text messages, email, and the like that falsely informs the recipient that he or she has won any raffle draw or other promotions sponsored by AYF.

Please be informed that the AYF, and similarly, all members of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, does not support, endorse or perpetuate deceitful messages and will therefore not be responsible to any loss brought about by such scams.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 26 ISSUE, the banner story—"GMA pardons Erap"—misstated that deposed President Joseph Estrada served as mayor of San Juan for three decades. Estrada was mayor of what was then the municipality of San Juan for only 16 years.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 28 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Wildfires bring out warmth of Fil-Am families"—misstated that 500,000 acres is equivalent to 200 hectares. One hectare is equivalent to 2.5 acres. Thus, 500,000 acres is equivalent to 200,000 hectares.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the third entry in the "Figure it out" fact box on Page 15 of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine should have read: "P400 million: Minimum amount spent on public cemetery burials every year, as of 2006"—not "P400 million: Approximate amount spent on burials every year, as of 2006." The business of providing services for the dead is worth at least P2.4 billion annually.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 29 ISSUE, a Business story on Page B3-1 carried the erroneous headline—"Vitamin A vaccination drive in full swing." Vitamin A is administered as a supplement—not as a vaccine.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 1 ISSUE, a front-page article—"For wealthy litigants, sky's the limit for legal services"—misspelled the name of a law firm. The law firm is Villaraza & Angcangco—not Anganco.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 6 ISSUE, a front-page photo caption misstated the first name of a former secretary of transportation and communications. Her name is Josefina—not Josephine—Lichauco.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Pinoy 'mutineers' steer ship back to Mauritius

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE NINE FILIPINO CREW members of a fishing vessel who took control of the boat after the captain allegedly maltreated them were steering the boat back to Port Louis, Mauritius, the boat's home port by 4 p.m. (Manila time) yesterday.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has ordered a consular team to meet the seamen when the boat docks, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos said.

"Yesterday we ordered our embassy in Nairobi to immediately dispatch a consular team to Mauritius," Conejos told dzBB radio. "Their obligation is to ensure the safety of the crew and the vessel."

He said the team was headed by Vice Consul Bernadette Mendoza of the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, which is near Mauritius.

Conejos said the Mauritius Ministry of Foreign Affairs had assured the Philippine embassy the Filipino seamen would be treated well during the investigation of the case.

Earlier, Vice President Noli de Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, told the INQUIRER the DFA had asked the East Africa Seafarers' Assistance Program for help.

The group is also helping the Philippines in the tanker hijacking in Somalia where pirates continue to hold the crew, which includes Filipinos, hostage.

De Castro said the government had also contacted Apostleship of the Sea, a nongovernment organization in Mauritius, as well as the port and coast guard authorities in that country.

Conejos told De Castro he had also called the local counterpart of the apostleship for assistance.

"All these groups were asked to aid the OFWs. We also called the owner of the vessel in Taiwan," Conejos said.

The Filipino crew's leader, Roderick Sumang, talked to De Castro by phone on Monday, complaining about their abusive captain who made them work 24 hours a day and did not pay them their salaries.

Sumang told De Castro they decided to take control of the vessel, the UAICSIXA, using knives to scare the ship's Taiwanese captain, Jui-yin, and the Taiwanese crew, because they were desperate.

"*Sabi nila hindi naman daw nila tinali iyong kapitan. Nakaupo lang daw sa isang kwarto at pinapakain naman nila* (They said they did not tie the captain up. He is sitting in a cabin and they are feeding him)," De Castro said.

He identified the eight other Filipinos as Edwin Lee, Sherilo Moraleja, Delter Algay, Socrates Silan Jr., Dennis Tolentino, Noel Cusi, Jose Menpin and Jesus Manaqued.

He said a check with the Philippine Overseas and Employment Agency showed all nine Filipino crewmen were not registered with the agency, meaning they did not pass through it. *With an AFP report*

Writers' workshop

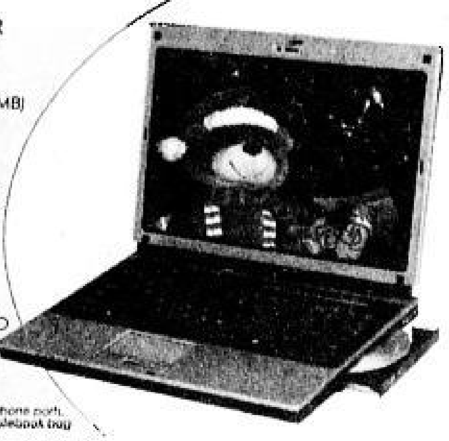
THE BAGUIO WRITERS GROUP WILL conduct a creative journal writing workshop on Nov. 23-24 at the conference hall of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines Mission Center at 356 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City.

The workshop is open to college students and adults who wish to learn the discipline of keeping a journal and drawing writing and other artistic ideas from it.

Prof. Grace Subido, who teaches literature and writing courses at University of the Philippines-Baguio, and Merci Javier Dulawan, a teacher-writer enrolled in advanced studies to enable her to teach the Ira Progoff method of journal writing, will serve as workshop facilitators.

Twenty slots are open for participants. A fee of P1,200 covers handouts, snacks, lunch and certificates.

To reserve, call or text Babeth Lolarga at 0916-242-1637.



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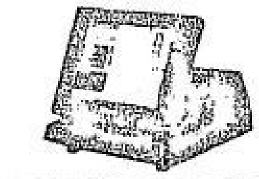

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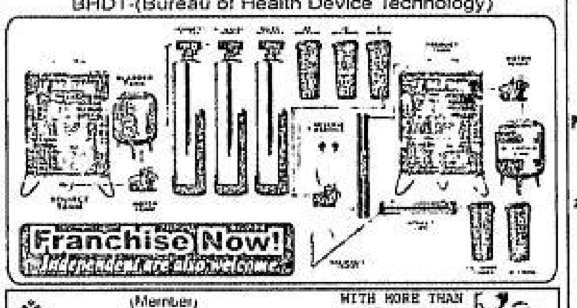

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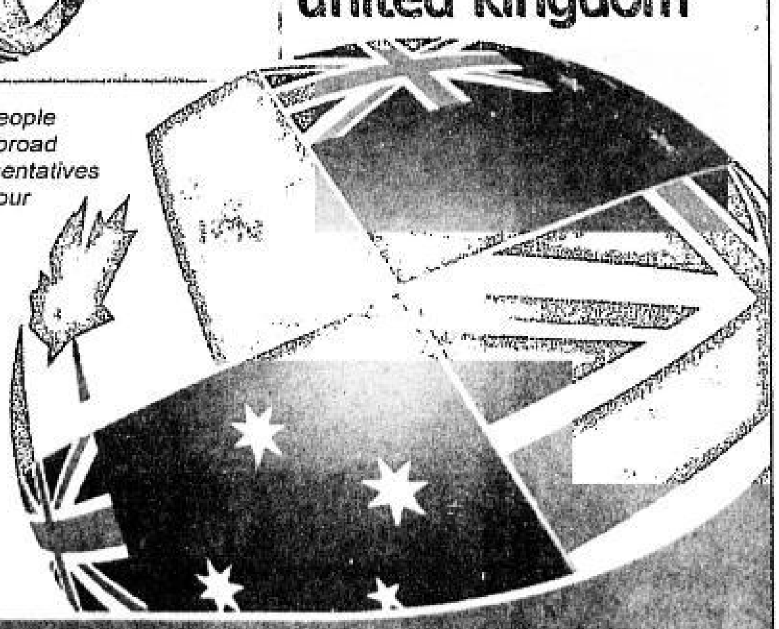

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Argentines seize smuggled RP coral

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine customs said Monday it had seized a valuable five-ton shipment of endangered and protected coral and seashells from the Philippines that was destined for the black market in tourist haven Mar del Plata.

The illegal shipment of some 1,500 pieces of coral and seashells was listed as manufactured goods when it arrived at the Buenos Aires port, customs officials said.

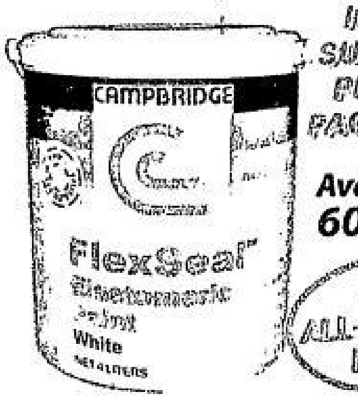
Most of the protected species are included in the 1975 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which ensures that trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Argentine customs officials said they were considering donating the coral and shells to museums or environmental organizations for their preservation.

Mar del Plata, 400 kilometers southeast of Buenos Aires on the Atlantic coast, is one of Latin America's top tourist destinations.

Recently, Filipino marine biologist Edgardo Gomez, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, warned the coral off Luzon's western coast had been hit by bleaching, which could kill them over time.

He said the bleaching could recur over the coming years because of global warming. *AFP; TJ Burgonio*



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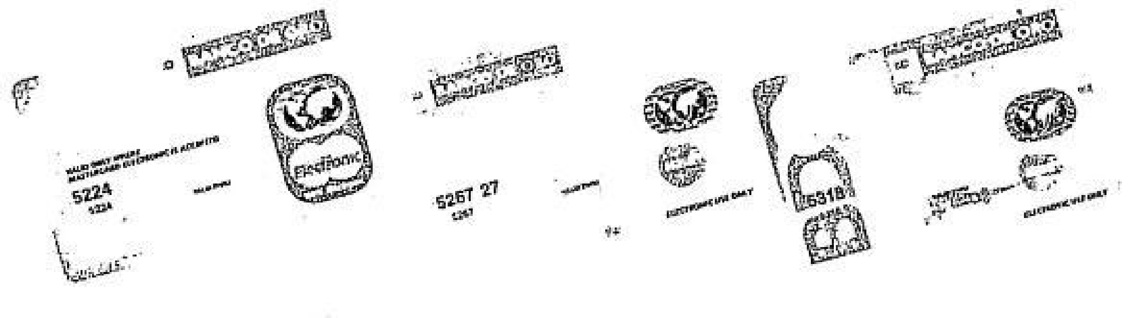

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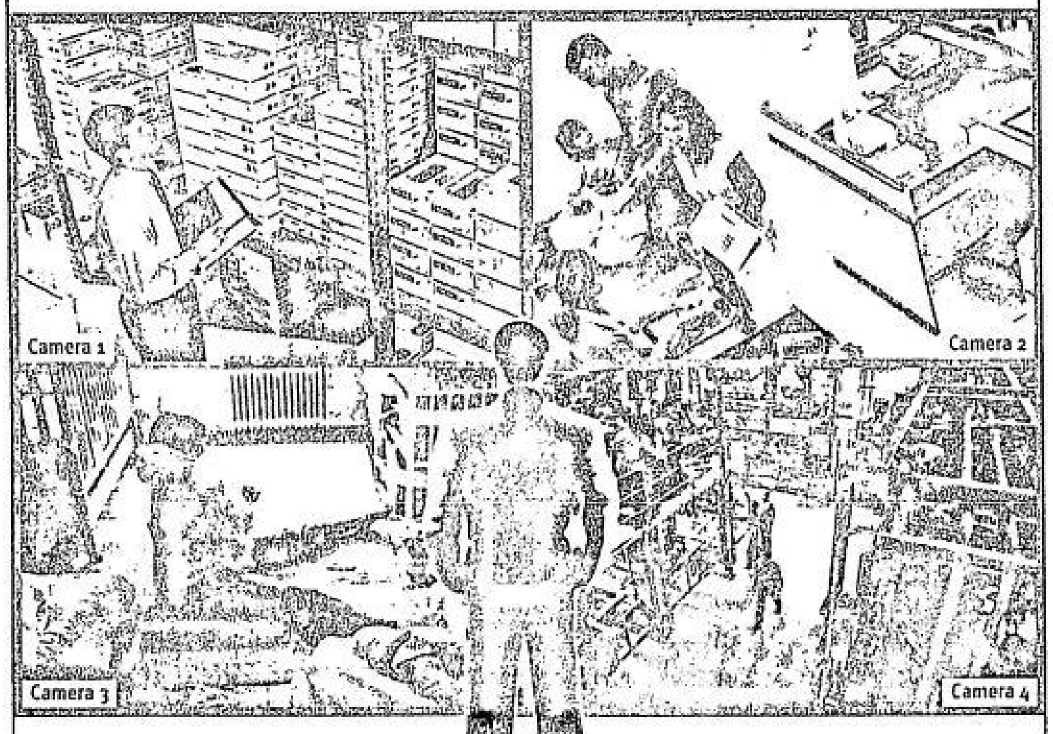

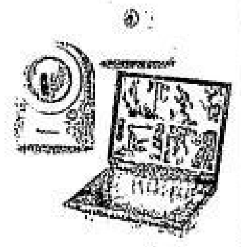

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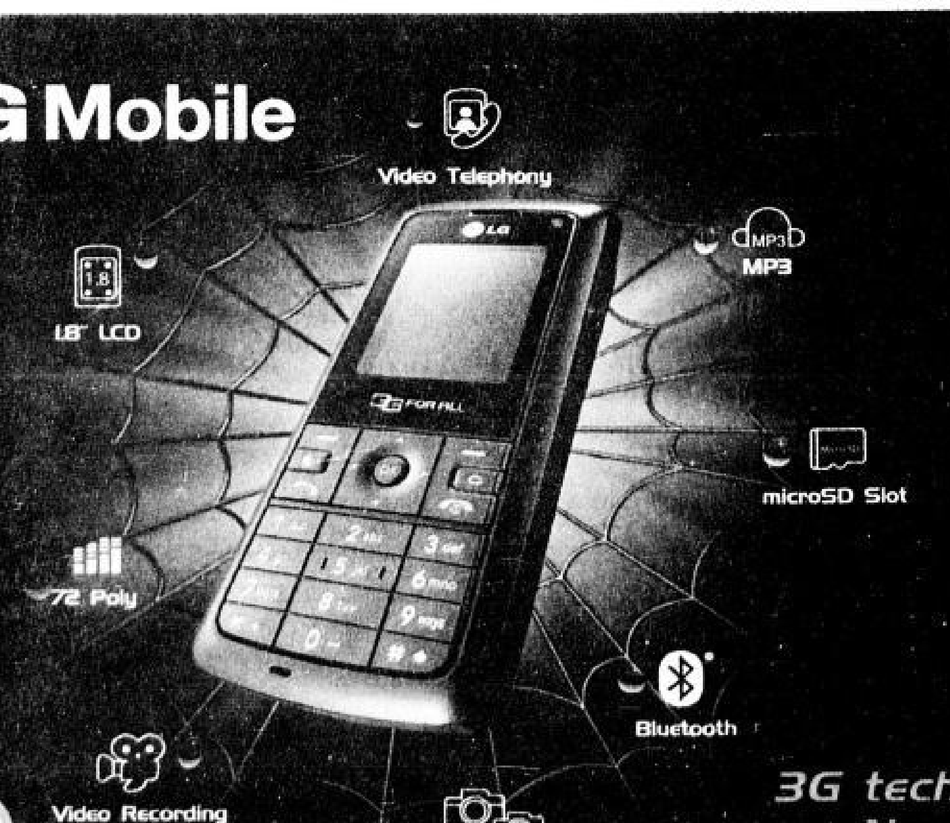

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Open Letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Her Excellency
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang, Manila

Dear President Arroyo:

We are writing you a letter of serious concern that involves the deteriorating peace and order situation in the City of Naga.

For more than half a year now, confusion and demoralization have been reigning in the local police force because of inexplicable pressure and unjust orders emanating from both the regional command and the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

At least three things need to be immediately done to bring normalcy and stability back to our beloved city:

1. P/Supt. Amor Macoy, designated by the PNP Regional Command 5 as Offficer-in-Charge of the Naga PNP, should be replaced immediately. No less than the National Police Commission ruled that his appointment to the post by a PNP Officer-in-Charge Regional Director was illegal and did not undergo the official process. Moreover, P/Supt. Macoy has miserably failed to check the worsening peace and order situation in the city.
2. Recall the reassignment of fourteen (14) elements of the Naga PNP who on May 11, 2007 during the election period were ordered by Regional Command V Officer-in-Charge Balligi Agnanayon Tira to report to Camp Simeon Ola in Legazpi City supposedly to undergo investigation of their purported involvement in illegal drugs. Nothing came out of the investigation, with all 14 policemen registering negative results in the drug tests.
3. Follow to the letter the rules and procedures being provided for in the appointment/redeployment of police personnel and respect as well the orders of the court when faced with issues that seek to protect the rights of ordinary policemen without jeopardizing their avowed duty to protect and serve the higher interest of the constituency. For the past five (5) months now, the City Government of Naga has submitted on several instances nominations for the appointment of a full-fledged Chief of Police, which the PNP Command, for unknown reason, failed to act on.

We would like to let you know Madam President that the woes of the 14 Naga policemen did not end with their having been proven negative of drug use. On September 15, 2007, at the height of the Penafrancia Festival, P/CSupt. Eduardo E. Acuna, acting director for personnel and record management, issued an order re-assigning the 14 PNP Naga personnel to Camp Crame. Moreover, two other police officers, known for their outstanding performance, were directed to proceed to Subic for "retraining", effectively bringing the number of personnel pulled out of the undermanned PNP Naga Police Station to sixteen (16). We can't imagine that of all the PNP personnel that need "retraining", the PNP Central Command chose two police officers cited by the Philippine Jaycees as among the Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, with P/SSupt. Tira at the helm of the Bicol PNP as OIC Police Regional Director, *jueteng,* the illegal numbers game, resurged with impunity in most of the provinces in Bicol, including the province of Camarines Sur. We hear nary a whimper of protest from the police force against the unabated proliferation of *jueteng* while their superior officers busied themselves harassing their own men, such as the 16 Naga policemen.

In Naga City, with P/Supt. Macoy as OIC Chief of Police, there has been a virtual breakdown of peace and order – a terrifying situation never before seen in years.

Consider the following recent incidents:

- On May 23, 2007, Ms. Paola Cassaigne, a graduate student of the University of British Columbia participating in a trend-setting educational program initiated by the city government of Naga, was victimized by snatchers at the public market. No police officer responded to her call for help.

- On August 8, 2007, at around 7 am, Mr. Dante Braga Bravante was murdered in cold blood just a few meters from Saint Joseph School which is located along the city's busiest thoroughfare, the Panganiban Drive. No police officer was in sight when the ghastly act was committed by a motorcycle-riding assailant.

- On October 8, 2007, Mr. Manuel Prayel Ortiz, who just withdrew a large sum of money from a bank, was held up and fatally shot at about 12 p.m. by unidentified motorcycle-riding men in full view of noontime commuters and passers-by on the very busy street of Elias Angeles right smack in the city's central business district. Again, there was not a single law enforcer in sight when the criminals struck.

- On October 18, 2007, the Metro Naga Senior Citizens drugstore was ransacked by unidentified criminal elements. The brazenness of the act could be gauged from the fact that the drugstore is situated within the PNP-Naga compound! And a few hours later, an unidentified person snatched the wallet of Ms. Jennifer Kerr, an American Rotary Exchange student, who was walking along Magsaysay Avenue.

- On October 25, 2007, burglars broke the right side mirror of the service vehicle of Ragay (Camarines Sur) Vice Mayor Domingo Cedo and carted away 2 bags of valuables. The dastardly act was committed in the well-lighted parking area of the Regent and Aristocrat Hotels and at the very moment when Naga City Vice Mayor Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. was welcoming the other vice mayors of Bicol to their annual general assembly here in the city!

The city government of Naga has exhausted all administrative and legal means to address the aforementioned concerns. Yet, the situation in our city continues to deteriorate even as stop-gap measures, including the mobilization of Barangay Tanod and neighborhood watch organizations, are put into place.

Alarmed as we are by the unraveling scenario pf lawlessness, we have no other recourse but to bring this problem to your attention. We do not want to believe that all these are happening as a result of machinations by the police force because of jueteng that many of our people fear has corrupted even the higher echelons of the police command.

Madam President, we hope that this appeal for the safety of our people's lives and properties and for their peace of mind will not go in vain.

Thank you very much, Madam President for your appropriate action in this regard.

Most Rev. LEONARDO Z. LEGASPI, O.P., D.D.
Archbishop of Caceres

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GABRIEL H. BORDADO JR.
City Vice Mayor, Naga City
Vice Chairman, Naga City
Peace and Order Council

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor, Naga City
Chairman, Naga City Peace
and Order Council

POST SCRIPT. Last November 5, 2007, while this letter was being submitted for publication, robbers struck once again before a horrified crowd of motorists and pedestrians along busy Panganiban Avenue. In broad daylight, at around12:00 noon, eight armed gangmen, on board four motorcycles, plotted and succeeded to snatch the moneybag which contained cash receipts collected from Jollibee's Panganiban branch by employees of Metrobank. During the scuffle, one of the gangmen shot the bank's security escort, Rowenel Gavarra. He died a few minutes later due to multiple bullet wounds. Joey Robarios, Jollibee's security guard who tried to help the fallen Gavarra, also sustained gun shot wounds from the fleeing robbers. He remains in critical condition as of this writing. Again, this bloody incident happened without a single police officer in sight.

38 cops axed in new PNP chief's 1st month

By Alcuin Papa

ONE POLICEMAN went Awol (absent without official leave) for two months. An officer was found to have planted drugs at a checkpoint. Another was found guilty of planting evidence of a purported crime and extorting money from the victim.

These were some of the offenses that led to the dismissal of 38 policemen in October, Director General Avelino Razon's first month on the job since assuming the leadership the of Philippine National Police.

According to Police Director Edgardo Acuña, chief of the PNP Directorate for Personnel and Records Management (DPRM), there were 633 policemen slapped with criminal and administrative charges stemming from various offenses ranging from misconduct, breach of discipline, neglect of duty to involvement in criminal activities.

Going Awol was the most common offense, Acuña told reporters yesterday in Camp Crame. The others were chronic absenteeism, coming to work late, going to work in unkempt uniforms and not sporting the prescribed haircut.

More serious violations included infractions of the PNP's Police Operating Procedures like the so-called "bangketa system" where an officer plants evidence of a purported crime on a person to extort money.

Of the 633 policemen charged, almost half were exonerated.

A total of 295 policemen were penalized. Aside from the 38 who were dismissed, eight were demoted in rank, 74 were suspended, 144 were penalized with salary forfeiture, 28 were reprimanded and three were forced to resign.

"All 633 cases stemmed from complaints which were investigated and acted upon at different levels of command. Some were meted nondisciplinary sanctions while others were either exonerated or had their cases dropped," Acuña said.

When Razon assumed his post on Oct. 1, he promised to clean up the ranks, bring back the glory of the force and bring the force closer to the people.

Acuña encouraged the public to report any rogue policemen involved in criminal activities through PNP TXT 2920.

Customs misses target

THE BUREAU OF Customs missed its collection target for October by about P2.3 billion due mainly to the strengthening peso.

"We are trying our best but things are getting harder for us at the bureau as the peso continues to grow stronger," Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said in an interview.

This was because, he said, "the first step in tax collection is converting the invoice value (in dollars) to pesos."

The BOC collected P19.447 billion last month, short of its P21.7-billion target, an initial report by the bureau's finance service department disclosed. It aims to collect P223 billion for all 2007.

The BOC said only five of its 15 port districts met their targets for October: The Port of San Fernando, with revenues of P131 million; Ninoy Aquino International Airport, P1.757 billion; Port of Legaspi, P3.7 million; Port of Cagayan de Oro, P307 million, and Port of Davao, P148 million.

It was the eighth time this year the BOC failed to meet its monthly target. The targets were met only in July, August and September.

But Morales said the figures were not final.

"There were some ports that extended their hours of service owing to the long holidays last week and the volume of transactions," he said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

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• EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION	November 19 - December 3, 2007	M-W-F	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• NEGOTIATION AND DECISION MAKING STRATEGIES	November 20 - 29, 2007	T-TH	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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• HOW TO BUILD A WINNING TEAM	November 20 - 29, 2007	T-TH	6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
• MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT	November 17, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• WAREHOUSE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT	November 24 - December 15, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
• HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEM EMPLOYEES	November 17, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• HOW TO QUALIFY PROSPECT & HIT THE RIGHT SALES TARGET	November 17, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION	November 17, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS	November 24 - December 15, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• COUNSELLING AT WORK	November 24 - December 8, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• FORMULATING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	November 24 - December 8, 2007	Saturday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
• EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR MGRS. & SUPERVISORS	December 3, 2007	Monday	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• MOTIVATION: Way to Get Maximum Performance	November 23, 2007	Friday	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• MATERIALS CONTROL SYSTEM	December 8, 2007	Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
• PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	November 17, 2007	Saturday	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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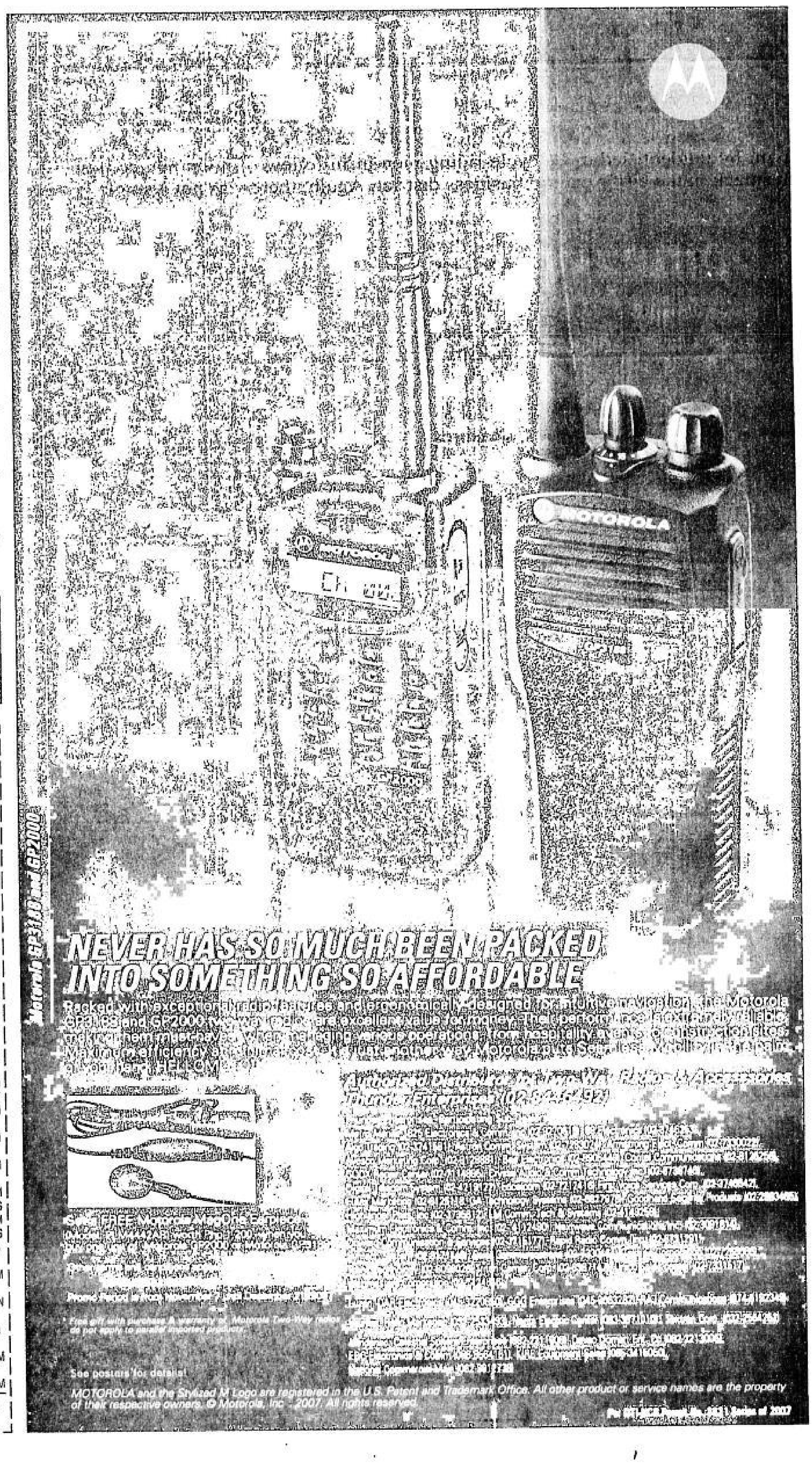

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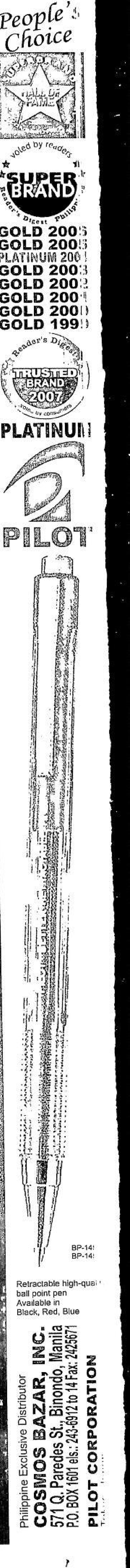

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Finally, a boulevard named after 'Ka Pepe'

From page A1

finished boulevard after Diokno.

The boulevard spans the cities of Parañaque and Pasay and will eventually connect to the province of Cavite, according to Osmeña.

"The road also connects to the Senate. I don't know if this is good or bad for Pepe's memory," he said, drawing laughter from the guests at yesterday's inauguration, among them former President Corazon Aquino and her son Sen. Benigno Aquino III, Sen. Joker Arroyo, and members of Diokno's family.

Osmeña said the bill seeking to name a street in honor of Diokno, who died on Feb. 27, 1987, was among the first two measures that he filed before the Senate.

"We almost got the bill renaming Taft Avenue [in Manila] after Pepe passed, until we faced opposition from the National Historical Commission and then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza," Osmeña said.

He said it took the Senate another five years to find and name a "less controversial" road in Diokno's honor.

'A crime'

But Senator Arroyo declared that the tribute was "a little too late and too small."

Arroyo, who said he admired Diokno for intelligence, courage and nationalism, said the man was the father of the human rights movement in the Philippines.

"Nobody can take that away from him. It was a crime that Taft Avenue was not renamed after this great man," Arroyo said.

Carmen Diokno said she still found the tribute to her husband unreal.

Sitting in front of his blown-up picture showing him smoking a cigarette, and holding her own cigarette "Pepe-style," the widow said she had actually asked the proponents of the law to stop working on it.

"In a sense, I never thought that it would happen," she said softly, smiling. "[The lawmakers] have been working on this for so long, and I felt sorry for them. I told them to stop *na*."

Carmen Diokno also said that were he still alive, her husband would have been uncomfortable with the honor.

JOSE W. "PEPE" DIOKNO

CARMEN Diokno glances at a mural of her late husband, Jose "Pepe" W. Diokno. REM ZAMORA

"But it was nice of our senators and congressman to do this for him. He really lived for his country," she said.

Brilliant

She expressed her family's hope that through the newly named boulevard, Filipinos would remember what Diokno did in his lifetime.

Diokno was born on Feb. 26, 1922, to the late Ramon Diokno, a former associate justice of the Supreme Court, and Eleanor Wright, an American who became a Filipino citizen.

The boy showed brilliance even as a young student, graduating with distinction from grade school and completing high school at De La Salle College (now De La Salle University-Manila) as valedictorian in 1937.

In 1940, he earned his bachelor's degree in commerce, summa cum laude, at the same school. He topped the board examination for certified public accountants in that year with a rating of 81.18 percent.

In 1944, without finishing his law degree, he took and topped the bar examination, with a rating of 95.3 percent.

Immediately after passing the bar, the young Diokno embarked on a law practice, handling and winning controversial cases. His excellence brought him to public prominence and in 1961, then President Diosdado Macapagal appointed him justice secretary.

As a senator, Diokno was a persistent proponent of pro-Filipino legislation, notably the Industrial Incentives Law, which provided incentives to Filipino investors and entrepreneurs in order to place control of the Philippine economy in the hands of Filipinos.

He also continually opposed the dispatch of troops to wars overseas and waged a campaign against the spoils system that dominated Philippine politics.

For his courage and considerable contribution to legislation, Diokno was consistently voted outstanding senator.

Martial law

When Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law, Diokno was one of the first members of the opposition to be arrested.

A marker placed near the boulevard states that Diokno was arrested by members of the military on Sept. 23, 1972, and that he was imprisoned for 718 days without being brought to trial.

Upon his release in 1974, Diokno organized the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), which provided free legal services to victims of oppression under martial law. He continually fought for the restoration of democracy up to the "Edsa Revolution" in February 1986.

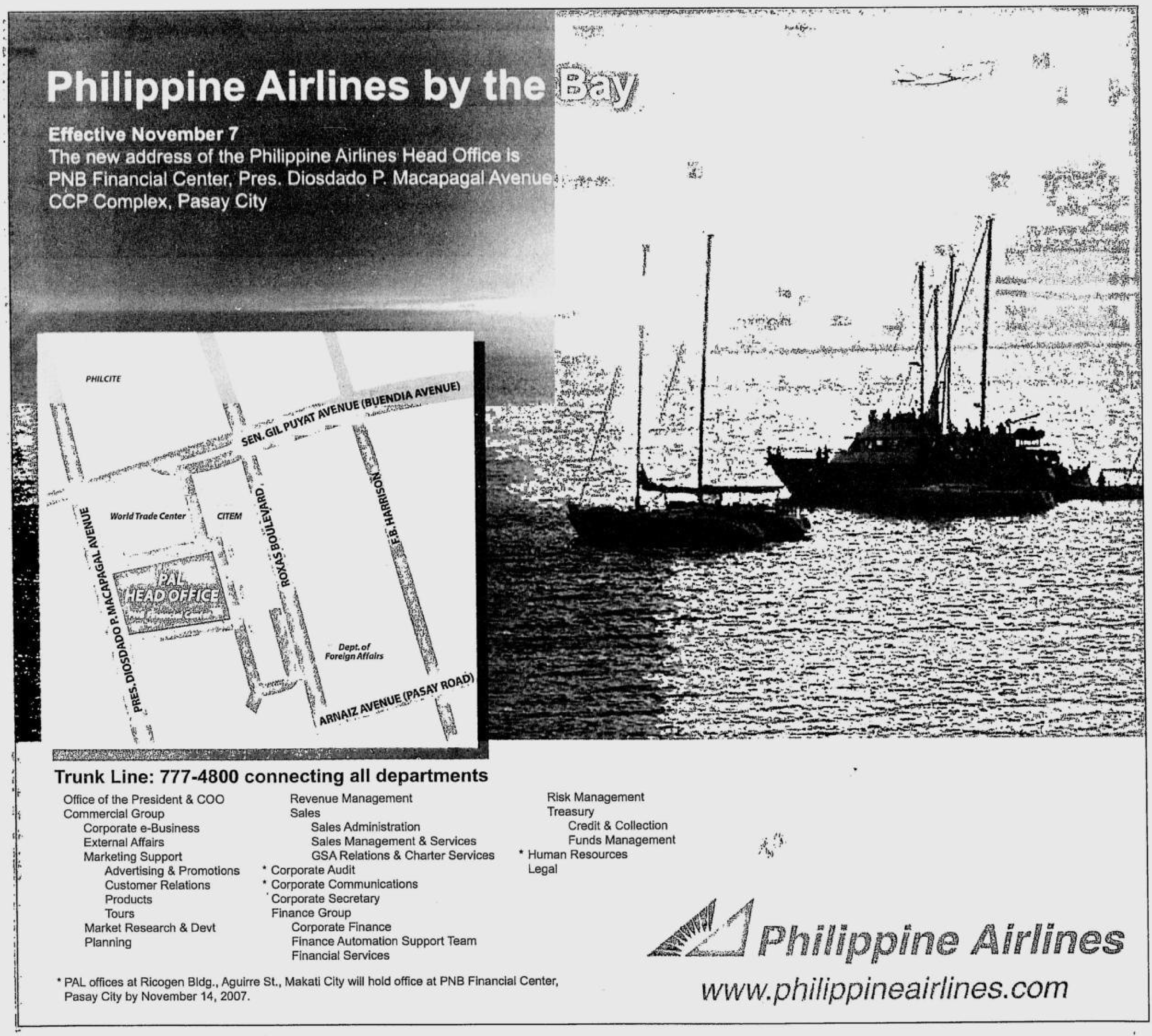
"My father thought that with the end of martial law, things would be better for all Filipinos. He would have been upset with but challenged by the recent worsening of events in the country," said Maria Socorro Diokno, his sixth child and FLAG secretary general.

Socorro, who worked for her father as a receptionist and executive assistant for 13 years, said he died loving his country.

"If he were alive now, he would not have tolerated the killings and disappearances of activists. He would be on the street and in the courts every day," she said.

She also said she found it funny that the boulevard named after her father was still unfinished: "It's just like my dad, whose work was unfinished when he passed on."

THE DIOKNO clan gathers on Tuesday during the inauguration of the boulevard named after the late activist lawyer and nationalist, Jose W. "Pepe" Diokno, near the Mall of Asia in Pasay City. REM ZAMORA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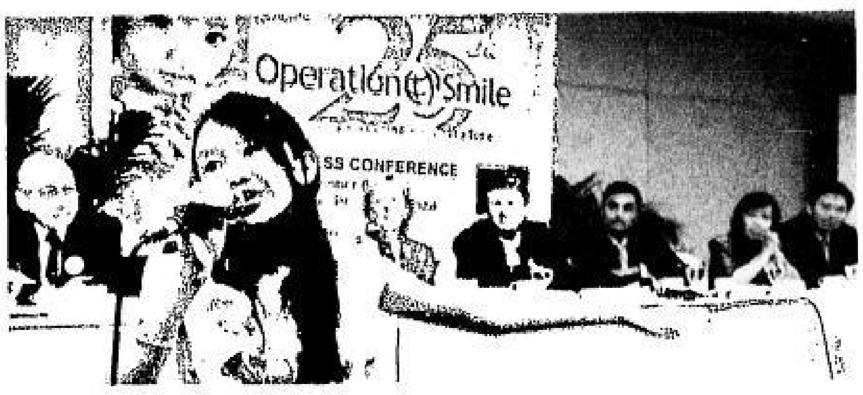
Not only can Chadleen smile, she can sing!

From page A1

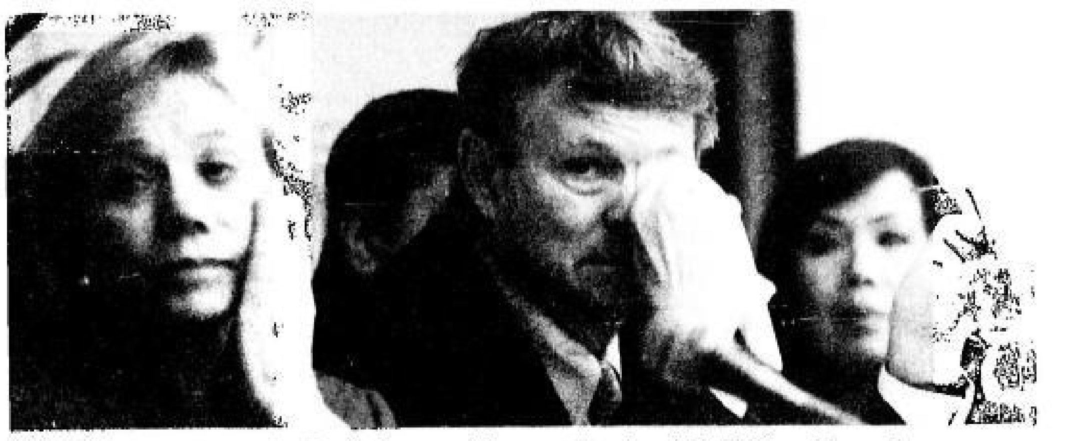
show her teeth in a perfect smile, speak without difficulty and whistle to her heart's content. She even made it as a grand finalist in an amateur singing tilt in Cebu City when she was 11, besting more experienced child performers.

The budding songstress pranced in heels and tight fitting jeans, a far cry from the child who was often taunted for her facial deformities.

Chadleen is among the 19,074 beneficiaries of Op-Smile Philippines' mission to fix the disfigured lips and palates of children all over the country.



CHADLEEN Lacdo-o, 12, who was operated on for a cleft palate when she was 5, belts out a song during a press conference at Sofitel Philippine Plaza attended by the top officials of Operation Smile. Chadleen was a grand finalist in an amateur singing contest in Cebu City when she was 11 years old. EDWIN BACASMAS



KATHY Magee, Operation Smile Inc. president, and husband Dr. William Magee Jr., Operation Smile Inc. chief executive officer, shed tears of joy as they listen to one of Operation Smile's beneficiaries sing during a press conference at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. At right is Edith Villanueva, vice chair of Operation Smile Philippines. EDWIN BACASMAS

25th year

The US-based medical charity, established in 1982, will be marking its 25th anniversary on Nov. 7-16 with the "World Journey of Smiles" in 40 sites across 25 countries—and 5,000 new smiles in the making. It is mobilizing more than 1,500 volunteers in Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The project will be the largest surgical mission to be ever conducted by Operation Smile Inc., said Dr. William Magee, who founded the group with his wife Kathy.

"This is our anniversary gift to children around the world. Our goal is to bring smiles and hope to children worldwide," Magee said in a press conference yesterday.

"We are also collecting genetic samples from 25 countries worldwide, to be made available to genetic researchers wanting to find out the cause of cleft lips and to put a stop to it," he added.

Aside from performing surgeries for free, Op-Smile trains local doctors and nurses, and provides medical equipment for them to be able to create smiles for those born without them.

RP volunteers

Composed of volunteer doctors, nurses, businessmen and civic leaders, the group has made a total of 151 missions in the Philippines.

Dr. Laurence Loh, Op-Smile Philippines president, announced that three facilities dedicated to fixing cleft lips and other facial deformities would be put up at the OsMak, the Brokenshire Hospital in Davao City and the Cebu Cleft Center.

Once operational, Magee said the "comprehensive cleft centers" would be able to operate on children year-round, which, he added, would hopefully hasten the mission's growth.

Op-Smile is eyeing three sites for its World Journey of Smiles leg in the country: The Davao Medical Center, the Bicol Medical Center in Naga and the Ospital ng Makati (OsMak).

"We are targetting 500 children," said Edith Villanueva, vice chair of Op-Smile Philippines. Her group has 160 volunteers.

Ceremonial cut

The Magees, along with other officers, will make the "ceremonial first cut" in a child's cleft lip and palate in Naga, kicking off the week-long medical marathon. Magee treated 82 patients during the first mission in Naga in 1982.

For Chadleen, who underwent a 45-minute surgery when she was 5 years old, her initial fear of having her lips cut and shaped into a pretty mold gave way to the excitement of being able to smile with ease.

"I was a bit afraid, but when I thought of being able to smile for once, it all went away," the girl said in an interview.

No longer a shy lass, Chadleen breezes through the repertoire of female artists, like Sarah Geronimo, Celine Dion and Beyoncé. She is taking up lessons at the Center for Pop Music to help her improve her singing, her mother Bebot said.

"Before, I was teased whenever I sang. They said I didn't know how to speak because of this impairment," Chadleen said in Filipino. The only word she could speak without fail is "mama," she said.

The girl is now a high school freshman at Mandaue Christian School. She wears braces on the upper teeth to help correct the growth, and speaks without any difficulty.

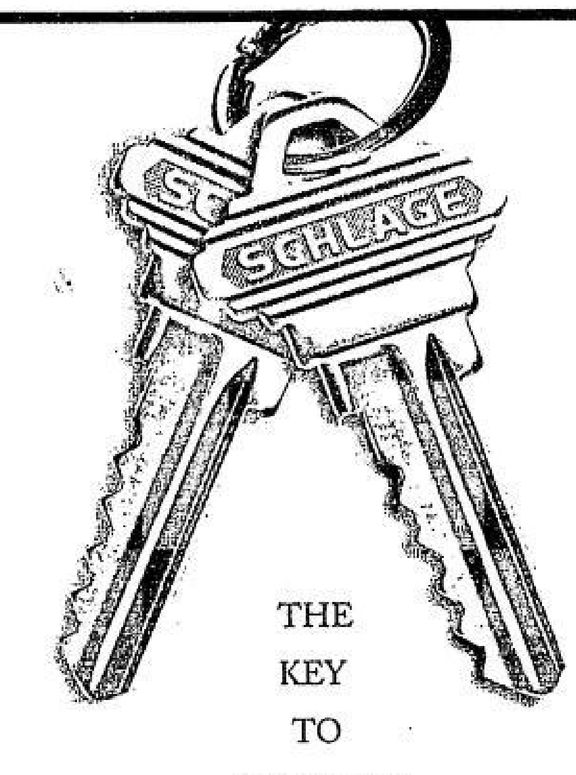
Lifetime stigma

For May Klaire Parparan, another Op-Smile beneficiary, the mission is more than free plastic surgery to those who couldn't afford to fix their deformed faces.

"You rescued us from a lifelong stigma and made our situation more bearable," said the nursing student, who had two operations when she was 4 and 12 years old.

Smiling effusively throughout her speech yesterday, May Klaire seemed never to tire of baring her teeth in a grin to punctuate her every sentence.

With a trembling nod toward her American benefactor, she added: "A word of thank you can never be enough. But I would like to say that you are our knight in shining armor ... you helped us discover our self-worth."



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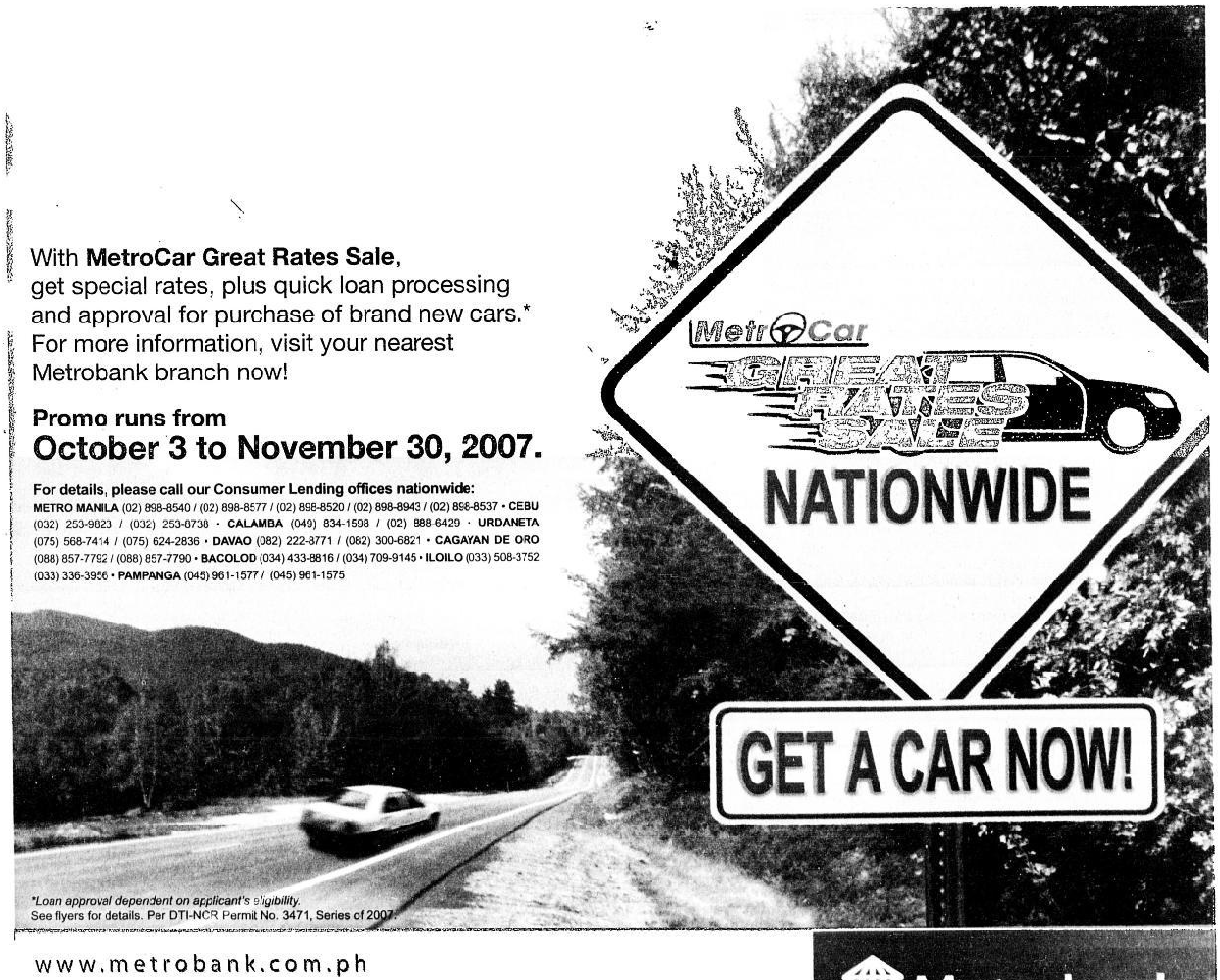

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OPINION

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Posturing

EDITORIAL

OVER THE WEEKEND, AS THE NATION REMEMbered its dead, President Macapagal-Arroyo attended to keeping her political prospects alive and kicking. On Nov. 1, vehicles of Pampanga officials were seen parked along J.P. Laurel Street, indicating a huddle in Malacañang. It was just one of many such meetings, including the summoning of first-term congressmen on two occasions in recent weeks. On Saturday, another meeting was held at the Palace. There, former President Fidel Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, the President and the usual suspects, young and old (and all so thoroughly corrupted by power), basically decided that their loyalty to their country ends where their loyalty to their party begins.

Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. put it bluntly: the Speaker "should not also alienate his House allies in pushing for his moral revolution advocacy." Translation: What are we in power for?

Two days later, her party intramurals tidied up, the President addressed foreign and local city government leaders, and distilled the party line: "We like to think that even the opposition [leaders] are committed to the public good and like us, that they want to find common ground to move the nation forward. We have made huge strides with our economy, including 27 quarters of growth, a surge in investments, six million new jobs, a strong peso and the best stock market in a generation. We are confident that politicians, especially the city officials here with us tonight, want to continue with the gains and not stop the progress."

The exemplar of this progress is the increasingly institutionalized Malacañang cash bar and buffet, courtesy of the President. Yesterday, after weeks of bumbling and confusion, the source of the half-a-million-peso cash buffet servings to congressmen was finally revealed. It was Kampi, the President's very own pet party, that doled out the money. Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. claimed that Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa claimed in turn to have doled out the cash, and that he was surprised Kampi was giving him, a Lakas member, money. But he said thanks for the half a million, anyway.

To be fair, Abante shouldn't have been surprised. Party affiliation has never been so meaningless as it is now. We should point out that no president, ever, has been so promiscuous when it comes to party affiliation, thus rendering it inconsequential. Ms Arroyo is titular head of Lakas-CMD, of the Liberal Party and of Kampi. All previous presidents were content to head one party or movement at a time. But this is part of Ms Arroyo's claims of progress.

What the President has proven is that her idea of democracy is posturing. Ramos can complain about the President's pardon for Estrada being a "national calamity," but then she manages to trot him out before the cameras to preen and do his trademark thumbs-up like any other minor party functionary. The Speaker can shriek about a "moral revolution," but he has to pipe down when his fellow congressmen point out that morality is something that shouldn't disturb the delights of access to the President's cash bar and buffet.

And the opposition? Posturing is welcome, too, and so long as it is within limits, you can bet the cash bar will now open up to the Estradas and their friends, too.

When former President Joseph Estrada announced he supports impeachment, he did so only after renouncing calls for Ms Arroyo to step down. The sentiment was echoed by his son and political heir, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

How meaningless Estrada's support for impeachment is, is betrayed by the comment of Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, lone congressman of the Estrada bailiwick, San Juan. Zamora referred to the submission of a supplement prepared by Adel Tamano (who served as spokesman of the Genuine Opposition) as "frivolous," even though the supplement was meant to fortify the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

In other words, money is power, the President has the money, and everyone else's power—Ramos, De Venecia, Estrada—will be subsidized by the President so long as they keep her in power. Forget Ramos' claims to morals. Or the accusations leveled by De Venecia's son. Or Estrada's claim to being more than an over-the-hill ex-con. They have all bowed before the real power in our Buffet Republic.

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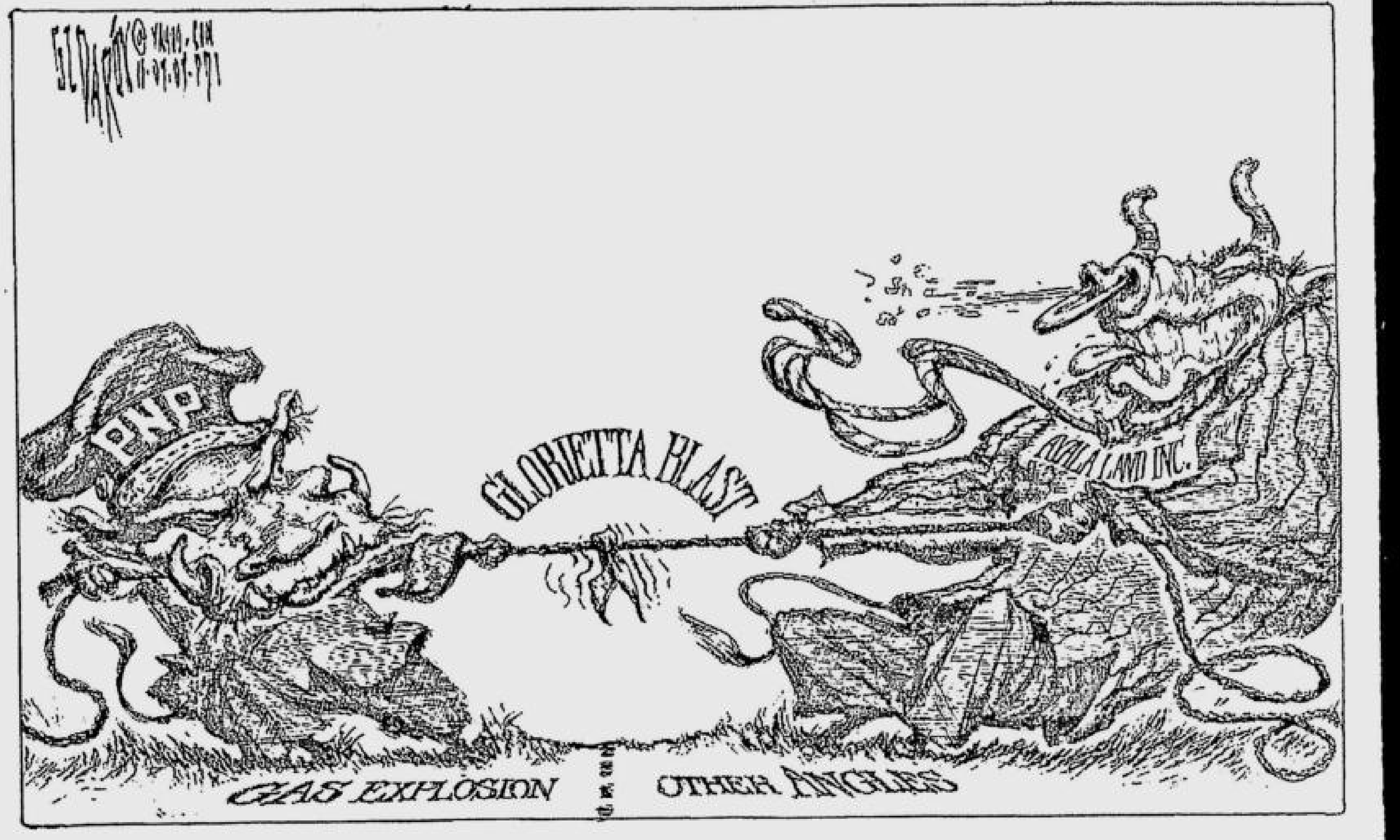

Manansala portrait also missing from NPC

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

NOT MANY KNOW IT, BUT THERE IS ANOTHer art treasure missing from the National Press Club building. That is the portrait of National Artist Vicente Manansala that used to hang beside the mural on press freedom that he painted. It disappeared at about the same time the mural did. It was probably given or sold to the unknown buyer as a bonus. It was a good likeness of the maestro and could fetch a minor fortune.

Where did the money go? The NPC officers are not saying. That portrait belongs to NPC members, not to the NPC president(?) or any of the other officers(?). The NPC book of accounts does not say how much the club received for that portrait. They should tell the members what happened to the portrait.

(I placed question marks after "president" and "officers" because they were not elected by the members. Like President[?] Macapagal-Arroyo to whom they are making *sipsip*, their legitimacy is under question. No wonder they love each other. During the regular NPC elections, they held their own election in the parking lot and lost. They went to court and asked for new elections which the court, surprisingly, granted. The group that won refused to participate in the new election, claiming it was illegal, so the present officers[?] were proclaimed by default. The other group has questioned that proclamation in court, but the case has not moved for almost two years now. They took their oaths of office before GMA in Malacañang. Birds of a feather flock together.)

In justifying the censorship of the new mural painted by the Neo-Angono Artists Collective, NPC president(?) Roy Mabasa said the artists "did not follow their instructions." Obviously, Mabasa is ignorant of etiquette in art. You do not censor or alter a work of art without the artist's approval. If you don't like the painting, you return it to the artist. Mabasa should have returned the mural to the Angono Collective if he didn't like it. He didn't have the right to alter it. That work of art belongs to the artists even if the NPC paid for it. It is a work of art and not the same as a piece of clothing that you are free to alter after you buy it. Tampering with a work of art without the consent of the artist is sacrilege in the art world, and artists, art critics and art lovers are understandably outraged. (When I had that mural cleaned and retouched after it was damaged by a fire, I had Manansala himself do it with the help of other artists under his direction.)

The general membership did not ask Mabasa to have a new mural made to replace the original one that he surreptitiously sold. They want the original Manansala mural returned. And the Manansala portrait.

Mabasa and the NPC board probably thought that a new mural would assuage the outrage of the members over the secret sale of the original. That would have been a profitable swap for them. They got P10 million for the old one and paid only P900,000 for the new one. That's like the trick in Aladdin of offering "new lamps for old."

But Mabasa et al. are not fooling anybody. The NPC members want nothing less than the return of the original. What Mabasa et al. are trying to do is like swapping the Mona Lisa with a piece done by Peck Piñon.

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) also wants the return of the Manansala mural. It claims ownership of that valuable mural and has sued the NPC board, the unknown buyer and the agent (Odette Alcantara of Heritage Art Gallery) for qualified theft.

The NPC building was built with a loan from the GSIS with the lot and building as collateral. When the NPC did not repay the loan, the GSIS foreclosed the mortgage, and the lot and buildings became the property of the GSIS. When the NPC did not pay the real estate taxes through the years, the Manila treasurer sold the property at public auction as the law requires and the GSIS bought it. Thus, the state insurance firm owns the NPC property twice over.

Nevertheless, the GSIS allowed the NPC to use the building for free. The NPC has not paid a single centavo in rent to the GSIS through all the years. Instead of gratitude, the GSIS said in its complaint, the NPC repaid its generosity by "stealing" the Manansala mural and selling it for P10 million. At least P3 million of that has already been spent.

So the GSIS told the NPC to vacate the property and has asked the court to eject the "squatters." The GSIS is justified in throwing out the present officers for their ingratitude. The NPC has not said anything in its defense except that the mural is not a part of the building and therefore does not belong to the GSIS. The latter says it belongs to the millions of GSIS members and that it is the duty of its officers to get it back.

But the judge is sitting on the case. Is he or she in cahoots with the NPC board?

I was a witness to the origin of that mural when I was with the old Manila Chronicle then owned by the Lopez family. The NPC building was then still being built. As their contribution to the building, the Lopezes decided to commission Manansala to paint the mural and donate it to the NPC. It was painted by the artist directly on the lawanit walls of the dining room, even incorporating the air-conditioning ducts and serving counter and door in the design. It was not painted on canvas outside and then brought into the building like an easel painting.

Therefore, it is part of the building it owns, the GSIS claims, and when the NPC sold it without its knowledge and permission (and the NPC members), that was qualified theft.

Return the Manansala mural and portrait!

Perversions

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE SALE OF THE ORIGINAL MANANSALA mural already showed what the National Press Club has become: an institution that exists not to defend press freedom but to augment personal income. Though I don't know that they didn't do Vicente Manansala a service by relocating his work elsewhere, possibly to more deserving surroundings. The last time I was in the NPC, which must have been the previous century (literally!), I thought the mural, worn-out and fading, was a forlorn commentary on a place that once rang with the voices of Chino Roces, Tato Constantino, Tony Zumel and other stout advocates of the press but now rang only with drunken laughter and the clink of coins.

It used to be a place for the exchange of ideas. Today, it's a place for the exchange of, well, I invite all self-respecting journalists who have avoided it like a plague over the last decade to supply what gets to be exchanged there. No, I wasn't surprised at all that the NPC connived with the Presidential Security Group to redo the Angono Artists' commissioned work to make it more palatable to their patron(s). I would have been surprised if they hadn't. You have a fake press organization, you have a fake president, you'll want a fake view of press freedom. I'm surprised they didn't fake the mural itself.

When I saw a photograph of the Angono work on our front page last Sunday, my first reaction was to wonder what in God's, or the other fellow's, name the NPC was doing being in the center of things in an artistic rendering of press freedom. It should have been nowhere in sight, which is where it is right now: neither here nor there. But then I realized that the NPC wasn't the problem, anymore than Malacañang is. It is the people squatting in them. The institutions are genuine, their occupants are fake. The question is: Why aren't the self-respecting journalists of this country rising up to take back what is theirs?

I can only add my voice to those who have already condemned the censorship the NPC practiced when it moved to redo, or indeed remove, certain details from the mural. Chief of them the one where a newspaper head that proclaimed "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" was changed to "Press Freedom Fight Is On." And the pictures of Edita Burgos and Jonas Burgos made unrecognizable. Joe Burgos must be turning in his grave. Edita and Jonas' other kin and friends must be burning in their rage.

An NPC director, Joel Sy Egco, would say later he was initially shocked and even wanted to boycott the mural's unveiling (by GMA) but realized NPC president Roy Mabasa meant no harm when he ordered the "minor changes." The day you see the difference between those two heads as minor is the day you'll see the difference between the pre-martial law Manila Times and the martial-law Daily Express as minor. Or since that analogy will probably be lost on the post-martial law babies, the day you see the difference between those two heads as minor is the day you'll see the difference between Mother Teresa and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as minor.

Mabasa would later lament that the Angono artists went public with their protest instead of sitting down with them to discuss the alterations. What's this, *kaya 'to sa maboteng usapan?* Thank God the Angono artists, like all true artists and writers, understood at once that the difference between "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" and "Press Freedom Fight Is On" is the difference between life and death. Hell, thank God the Angono artists understood press freedom better than their "art patrons."

But in the end—a thing that seems to have been lost in this furor—the bigger affront to press freedom is not that the NPC, the one organization tasked to defend it, should attempt to suppress it in a work they themselves commissioned. What's so is the NPC inviting GMA in the first place to unveil a mural about press freedom. That is the most unkindest cut of all.

It's bad enough that the NPC has not added its voice to the condemnation of the "culture of impunity" which has claimed the lives of scores of journalists across this country. A "culture of impunity"—the term comes from Reporters Without Borders—that has happened during GMA's watch and is being blamed by Reporters and other genuine journalist organizations to GMA's administration itself. The silence constitutes dereliction of duty of an epic scale. But it's positively rubbing salt on wound to inflict the universally perceived source of the scourge upon the victim's kin as the one person that is trying mightily to dispel it. Sniveling cowardice is one thing, groveling sycophancy is another. The first is forgivable, the second is not.

And if that is rubbing salt on wound, how call what the NPC just did, which is turning the indictment, "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" into the endorsement, "Press Freedom Fight Is On"? I leave Edita Burgos and the kin of the other victims of government's "war against journalists"—which is more real than its "war against terrorists"—to apprise the world of the sensation.

Even if GMA were not being blamed by the world as the source of the killings, the NPC's choice of her to unveil a work depicting press freedom insults journalists. It suggests a completely wrongheaded notion of press freedom, which is that it owes to the benevolence of government rather than the vigilance of the journalism community itself. When this country offers only proof of the latter, not least early last year when GMA tried to muzzle the press with Proclamation 1017 and the press fought back by defying its strictures. If the NPC had wanted a woman of true stature to represent press freedom, it should have gotten Eggie Apostol.

But that presumes that the NPC is an independent body and not an extension of Ignacio Bunye's office.

Pardoning the unpardonable

COMMENTARY

Florin T. Hilbay

THE GRANT OF PARDON TO JOSEPH ESTRADA, while expectedly inviting moral indignation, has surprisingly not generated criticism, or, even less, raised eyebrows in the legal community. Apparently, the implicit understanding is that the President's act, though ethically challenged, is constitutionally sound, echoing the much-maligned positivist teaching that what is legal is not necessarily moral. Consistent with the fill-in-the-blanks tradition of learning in law schools today, the "legal" question is reduced to compliance with conditions, i.e., to whether the pardon was given after conviction by final judgment. Because the pardon was for a conviction in a criminal (and not an impeachment) case, the limitation on the President's authority did not arise.

This reading is vacuous.

The Constitution provides: "Except in cases of impeachment ... the President may grant ... pardons, and remit fines and forfeitures, after conviction by final judgment." Who said that the conviction must first be handed down by the Senate sitting as an impeachment court? As far as one can gather, the only requirement is that there be a "conviction by final judgment," nothing more.

The real question is whether Erap's impeachment (a collective act of at least a third of the members of the House, and a feat astoundingly difficult to repeat) bars the President from granting a pardon for a conviction in a criminal case where the causes of action in both the impeachment and criminal cases are identical. Phrased this way, the constitutional question becomes a matter of how policy should direct our constitutional reading.

The key insight is the fact that Erap was not impeached for being a drunkard and tried before the Sandiganbayan for womanizing. He was impeached by the House and convicted by the Sandiganbayan for the crime of plunder. Sure, a conviction before the Senate and the Sandiganbayan have different consequences (removal from office in the former, incarceration in the latter), but there is no denying the identity of the acts for which he was prosecuted. In other words, "cases" refer to the subject matter of the litigation. It therefore makes little sense to say that because Erap was convicted by the Sandiganbayan and not by the Senate, then the constitutional bar against pardon "in cases of impeachment" no longer applies. The phrase pertains to impeachable offenses for which cases were filed by the House.

Conviction by final judgment is required by the Constitution only for those cases filed before the regular courts. The idea here is to prevent an accused from forum shopping by simultaneously litigating before the courts and at the same time seeking executive clemency. It has little bearing on cases of impeachment where the bar against pardon is triggered once one-third of the House decides to file a complaint by sending the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, thus making a "case" out of a petition for impeachment. But the principle remains the same: so long as the subject matter of the impeachment case is identical with the one filed before a regular court, the prohibition against pardon should remain. The policy is meant to preclude the President from exercising her constitutional prerogative in those matters where a substantial number of representatives of the people believe that an impeachable officer had committed grave public offenses.

A contrary reading would result in the absurdity many who would so casually read the Constitution are surprisingly willing to overlook: that Erap, who was convicted by proof beyond reasonable doubt before the Sandiganbayan, is now subject to pardon; whereas, had he been convicted before the Senate on whatever evidence acceptable to a group of senators (who may or may not be familiar with the technical rules of admission and exclusion in trials), he would not have been so eligible for a pardon. Why should we read the Constitution in such a way that it becomes easier for an accused to get off the hook in a case that is more difficult for the government to prove than in an identical case that requires a lower threshold of evidence?

Suppose Erap's trial before the Senate was fully heard and ended in an acquittal, allowing him to finish his term. Thereafter, the same cases were filed against him before the Sandiganbayan which, this time around, convicted him. Does Erap's successor have the authority to pardon him? Of course not. The refusal of the Senate to convict him is a purely political matter. It may be that the senators were truly fond of Erap, indebted to him, reigned in by the party, or convinced of his innocence. This judgment is subject to correction (or validation) through the electoral process. But the charge of plunder by the House remains and so the bar should operate so long as it is for these acts that Erap is eventually convicted. The act of the House in filing "cases of impeachment" is separate from the decision of the Senate to acquit.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno, in Estrada v. Arroyo, wrote that the basis of Erap's resignation was the people's exercise of their free speech and public assembly rights, norms that rank high in the constitutional order. President Macapagal-Arroyo, in pardoning Estrada, spits on the face of all those who stand against corruption and rejects the very source of her assumption to power. The least we owe the country is to read the Constitution with a sense of history informed by a need for justice.

Florin T. Hilbay was the 1999 bar topnotcher and holds a master's of law degree from Yale University. He is vice chair of Bantay Katarungan and an assistant professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

Other issues

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE OF THE POINTS RAISED BY OFFICERS OF the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP) was that, compared to traditional forms of biotechnology which rely on natural processes to modify or alter the nature of certain foods—such as fermentation, cross-breeding or pickling—genetic modification targets precise genes in one plant that bears desirable qualities and implants these genes into another plant.

But Dr. Emerlito Borromeo, whose letter I quoted from extensively yesterday, contests this claim, which he says is "only partially true." He clarifies: "Locating a gene for a desired character (such as for producing a toxin that kills insects) from the source organism, extracting it, engineering it (removing and/or adding a segment to make it functional in the target organism) I will concede is very precise. But putting the engineered gene in the target organism is not precise. It is a hit-or-miss thing. The scientists do not know where the gene inserted would exactly lodge in (i.e. in which place in the organism's own genetic map it would reside), what other resident genes would be affected, what unintended effects would happen, or even if the inserted genes would be functional at all. That is why GMO developers have to target thousands of cells, and out of thousands of cells only a few cells are fit enough to survive, grow into whole plants, and express the desired character. Those expressing the desired character have to be thoroughly tested to determine if there are other changes, unintended and undesirable, that happened during the process. And that is not the end of the story yet, the engineered plant still has to be crossbred to a suitable line or variety (following conventional protocol which, in Dr. Barzaga's words, jumble up the gene) as part of the cleansing and/or improvement process before coming up with the commercial GM variety."

* * *

BORROMEO adds that "unintended effects (desirable or not) happen in both conventional cross breeding and genetic engineering of crops." The difference is that "unintended effects resulting from natural breeding are unknown only to man, but is already known to nature. Much of the unintended deleterious effect of natural breeding must have already been corrected or eliminated through crop evolution and by nature's own preventive mechanisms. Plant breeders often see much deleterious effects of jumbling of genes only when plants that would not readily mate in nature (i.e. can still be mated but natural barriers to mating are already building up) are forced to mate. No one can be more precise than nature. When plants are cross-bred, genes are exchanged only in very specific locations, with its own specific pair."

In contrast, the doctor writes, "unintended effects caused by genetic engineering are unknown both to man and to nature. There is no evolutionary history or evolutionary correction to speak of. Everything is new. Thorough testing for unintended effects need to be undertaken. That is why GMOs are highly regulated. If they are very precise as claimed by Dr. Barzaga, why are they highly regulated?"

* * *

BARZAGA'S work on modifying tomatoes to provide immunity against rabies also comes under Borromeo's scrutiny. "I have no objection using biotechnology to develop plant-derived vaccines, in so much as most modern day vaccines are derived from cultured animal or microbial cells in bioreactors," says Borromeo. "But it should be done for the right reason and with utmost precaution. Using commonly cultivated food plants, for that purpose is a very risky and irresponsible proposition. Once GM pharma plants become publicly available, they would inevitably contaminate the regular rice, fruits and vegetables that we eat every day. Would you like to be eating rice, bananas, tomatoes with traces of, or sub-optimal doses of a cocktail of immunogenic drugs without you knowing it? Could you imagine what it would do to your immune system?

"The anti-rabies tomatoes, let me call them 'tomarab' for short, being developed by Dr. Barzaga is another classic misuse of genetic modification. It is a solution looking for a problem to solve. Claiming that it will cost only about 10 percent of the current cost of anti-rabies injections is pure guesswork when it is not even known how many kilogram of tomatoes one has to consume in order to be adequately protected from rabies.

"Rabies incidence in the Philippines is high, (and) immunizations for humans are expensive. Dogs are the main carrier and spreader of rabies in the Philippines… Rabies in dogs can be eradicated, as have been accomplished in other countries... What is needed is political will, at least at the local government level, to conduct regular rabies surveillance, eliminate rabid dogs, manage stray dogs, and regularly vaccinate dogs. If they will argue that this is not easy to do, developing and using 'tomarab' will not be any less difficult, or any less costly."

* * *

OTHER problems will also arise should "tomarab" be successfully developed, says Borromeo. Seeds for these GMO tomatoes cannot just be given way, since "pharma plants" must be regulated, and "tomarab" should "never be allowed to be raised alongside ordinary tomatoes."

He also raises related issues like the conditions under which 'tomarab' would be grown, testing of the plants for effective drug content, storage of the modified plants, and even who will "administer" the modified tomatoes. Asks Borromeo: "There are just too many things that can go wrong, such as fake 'tomarab,' or a 'tomarab' that did not produce or have the right amount of active substance. Who will bear the responsibility should anything go wrong?"

Musharraf's last act?

WORLD VIEW

Hassan Abbas

DESPERATE TO HOLD ON TO POWER, PERVEZ Musharraf has discarded Pakistan's constitutional framework and declared a state of emergency. His goal? To stifle the independent judiciary and free media. Artfully, though shamelessly, he has tried to sell this action as an effort to bring about stability and help fight the war on terror more effectively.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If Pakistan's history is any indicator, his decision to impose martial law may prove to be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back.

General Musharraf appeared on the national scene on Oct. 12, 1999, when he ousted an elected government and announced an ambitious "nation-building" project. Many Pakistanis, disillusioned with Pakistan's political class, remained mute, thinking that he might deliver. The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America brought Musharraf into the international limelight as he agreed to ditch the Taliban and support the United States-led war on terror.

Musharraf clamped down on some religious militants operating inside Pakistan and also on those fighting Indian forces in Kashmir. As a result, Pakistan was rewarded with US financial assistance and arms. In furtherance of his re-alignment, Musharraf sent the Pakistani army into the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan for the first time since Pakistan's independence. Operations there against Taliban and al-Qaida forces brought mixed results.

Although the United States viewed Musharraf as an agent of change, he has never achieved domestic political legitimacy, and his policies were seen as rife with contradictions. For example, he made alliances with Islamist political forces (who in 2004 voted for constitutional changes legitimizing his position and actions). At the same time, he sidelined moderate, mainstream political leaders while claiming that he stood for "enlightened moderation." A series of ill-planned military operations in the tribal areas further complicated the situation in the volatile border region.

Last March, Musharraf took his boldest step, removing the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Iftikhar Chaudhry. To the surprise of many, the country's legal community organized a nationwide movement to restore Chaudhry to his post. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary people demanded the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution, emboldening the judiciary and changing the country's political dynamic. In a historic ruling that Musharraf had little choice but to accept, the Supreme Court itself reinstated the chief justice in July.

Subsequently, the energized judiciary continued ruling against government decisions, embarrassing the government, especially its intelligence agencies. Government officials were held accountable for actions that were usually beyond the reach of the law, ranging from brutal beatings of journalists to illegal confinement for "national security."

Musharraf and his political allies tried to adjust to this new reality, but their patience ran out when the Supreme Court took up petitions against Musharraf's decision to run for president. According to the constitution, a serving military official cannot run for an elected office. Musharraf was not ready to give up his military post, but also wanted to be a civilian president. While he announced that he would leave his military position "if" he was elected president, his track record of reneging on his promises haunted the judiciary.

The proceedings of the court over the last few weeks made Musharraf jittery. The decision of the 11-member bench might easily have gone against him. Legally cornered, Musharraf decided to abandon constitutionality, removing the leading judges of the Supreme Court and provincial high courts and putting curbs on the media. Lawyers, human rights activists and political leaders have since been arrested.

There is widespread public resentment in response to these moves. Rather than taking responsibility for the deteriorating security situation (as evidenced by regular suicide bomb attacks) and the increasing Talibanization of the tribal areas, Musharraf has tried to blame the judiciary and media. To be sure, in some cases, judicial activism was obvious (though within the realm of constitutional law), and the media also made mistakes. But by no stretch of the imagination can these be linked to religious extremism or support for militancy.

It is unlikely that Musharraf's latest gambit will succeed, as his popular support is at its lowest ebb. Pakistan's armed forces—repeated targets of suicide bombers—have become demoralized. It is difficult to imagine them standing with Musharraf should civil conflict erupt. Nor can a weak, embattled and disoriented Musharraf be expected to fight Islamic militancy effectively or bring political stability to Pakistan.

Opposition political parties are drawing closer together, and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, despite progress in her power-sharing negotiations with Musharraf, has strongly condemned his actions. Human rights bodies, media associations and lawyers' organizations are expected to defy the emergency, which will pit them against the security forces.

Terrorists may also benefit by attacking a preoccupied army and political forces aligned with Musharraf. In the event of sustained protests and potential violence, top military commanders may decide to send Musharraf home—a decision that would not be unprecedented in Pakistan's chronically turbulent history. ***Project Syndicate***

Hassan Abbas served in the administrations of both Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Pervez Musharraf. He is now a research fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Not simply Mamita

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST WEEK I WROTE ABOUT DR. MITA PARDO DE TAVERA, former social welfare secretary and pioneer in community-based tuberculosis control, who passed away two weeks ago. Mamita, as friends called her, was a second mother to me. I do not think she would have wanted me to write in a spirit of mourning so instead, I will share some of the lessons she left me, not just about public health but about life in our times, in our country.

Simplicity was important for Mamita, from the way she insisted on the use of "Mamita" rather than the grander "Doktora Tavera" to every aspect of her lifestyle. She was known for her simple meals. She didn't like big meetings and preferred to meet one on one, often over lunch in her homes, usually with fish and vegetables, or a *torta* (omelet). Even after she became social welfare secretary during the Aquino presidency, she insisted on wearing very simple clothes: a plain blouse with locally made accessories. No designer labels for her; in fact, she would promote products—foods and crafts—from the communities she visited by using them.

Mamita was simple, but would spare no expense for what she felt were the truly fine aspects of life. She loved her ancestral home, which used to be in Manila, so when she had to move to Makati, she had much of that older home transported—for example grand old wooden planks and doors and fine grilled windows—to build the new house.

Sense of history

She had a deep sense of heritage and history. A few years ago, she donated all her medical writings, many in her distinctive large and legible handwriting to the Ateneo de Manila University library.

In many ways then, Mamita wasn't simply Mamita. Simplicity was a means toward other goals. The simple meals meant we could eat leisurely, appreciating the food and the company. Simple and slow meals meant we could discuss business matters without getting too stressed. To this day, I still dread business meetings or conventions in expensive restaurants or hotels because I know they'll serve too much food, to the extent that no one's able to listen to the speakers, or to each other.

Last week I described Mamita's tuberculosis control program, which was again based on very simple principles: trust people at the community level, teach them the basics, with simple educational materials, and they'll take care of themselves. She once had a health advice column and she told me several times that to make sure she was writing in a language that could be understood by her readers, she would "preview" the column with her mother, who was not a physician. She was obsessed about being able to get through with health messages and she passed on that sense of mission with health education to the staff of AKAP, the NGO she founded and for which I worked for several years. In a way then, Mamita and AKAP prepared me for university teaching, as well as writing this column.

At scientific conferences, she would present simple reports, yet they were powerful with their conclusions: community-based health works. In the 1990s, the World Health Organization adopted the "Direct Observation Treatment Short Course," where health professionals supervise tuberculosis treatment, a bit like what we did in our communities, to make sure patients would take their medicines. Mamita had mixed feelings about this approach, which is being implemented in the Philippines as well. What dismayed Mamita with DOTS was that patients had to report to a hospital or a health center. She was convinced our approach—going to the patients—would be more effective. It wasn't just a matter of logistics; going to the homes gave the patients a sense that we cared, and that they had to reciprocate by caring for themselves.

White-haired activist

Our tuberculosis control program flourished not just because of the medicines we used but because our health staff had learned to integrate with the communities, sharing their simple lifestyles. That included Mamita herself, ever willing to go into urban slums and remote rural areas. She inspired the staff, but admitted too how we gave her strength with our commitment.

Among our doctors was Bobby de la Paz, assassinated in 1982 in Samar by the military. After he was shot, hundreds of village people came forward offering to donate blood. I was on study leave in the United States at that time but the day after Bobby was assassinated, Mamita phoned me. She was grief-stricken, as if she had lost a son herself, but being Mamita, she went on to work with other doctors to put up the Medical Action Group (MAG), mobilizing health professionals to tackle human rights issues.

Mamita was often suspected, too, of being part of the underground movement. The suspicions were not unfounded (she was never a communist but she often told me she could understand why there was such an active Communist Party and a New People's Army). TB was there to remind her, on a daily basis, of what poverty and social injustice could do, and what we needed to do.

She knew how to use her being a white-haired Spanish mestiza—not by playing the elite *cacique* but through grandmotherly charm. Knowing her presence would help to protect other ralliers from truncheons, maybe even bullets, she would (wo)man the frontlines of demonstrations and pickets. She wore many different hats: head of AKAP, chair of the militant women's organization Gabriela, a MAG leader, or one of the stalwarts of the mostly white-haired, mostly mestiza Concerned Women of the Philippines. Like the late Chino Roces, she was highly visible in the rallies.

Humanitarian missions

Less known were her humanitarian missions, accomplished amid great danger, where she would smuggle medical supplies into heavily militarized zones. This was a time when even community health manuals were considered "subversive materials." Unfazed, Mamita would drive her own car, smiling and waving her way past the military checkpoints.

Mamita's nationalism was unqualified, yet she knew the activists kept their distance from her, given her class origins, and more. One time, in a very candid moment, she told me: "Mike, I sometimes think you and I—you because you're of Chinese ethnicity and me because of being Spanish—will never be accepted as Filipinos." There was great sadness in her voice and I did not know how to respond.

To this day, there are still times when I feel, as Mamita did, the discrimination, but Mamita taught me not to let that breed bitterness or resentment, or make it an excuse to pack up and leave. She worked tirelessly, almost with a vengeance, as a *doktora*, later as a government official, and always, as a Filipina. Mamita's simplicity gave her the strength to hurdle the most difficult of obstacles, blaze new trails, give new meanings to what it means to be a Filipino. She was always uncomfortable with praise, so maybe we all had to wait for her to move on, to say that Mamita was a Filipina, a great Filipina.

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'Price of justice' for Filipinos

EVEN IF THE POLICE OFFICIAL REPORT concludes that the Glorietta 2 explosion was caused by a gas leak thus opening the possibility of lawsuits against Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), I believe the latter need not be alarmed—thanks to a judicial system that makes the cost of filing lawsuits so prohibitive only the rich can afford it. Thus is the constitutional provision, "No one shall be denied access to the courts by reason of poverty," made totally meaningless.

The hoi polloi, the ones who got hit more severely by that incident, would have to be content with the criminal complaints to be cobbled by police authorities using Underwood typewriters. But even that is small comfort as criminal cases now entail so many unexpected expenses to be shouldered by the complainants, too. (INQUIRER, 11/1/07) If that's not adding insult to injury, I don't know what is. Gone are the days, indeed, when government renders any service for free—after robbing its citizens of the taxes they pay.

Whatever happened to the justice system in this country? How did it come to this pass that justice—an essential government service—is now being served and billed like room service in a hotel, motel or what-have-you?

—STEPHEN L. MONSANTO,
slmonsanto@yahoo.com.ph

When a chamber pot brought down a president

I LOOK BACK WITH NOSTALGIA WHEN AN "orenola" (chamber pot) costing the measly sum of P500 brought down a president.

Now, my mind is in a shambles, my knees are shaking and my stomach is churning out of anger at what is happening in our country every day.

The following unresolved irregularities are indeed very nauseating:

1. The $2-million extortion charge against a former justice secretary
2. The manipulated P1.3-billion election computerization contract
3. The alleged P532-million overpricing of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard
4. The P200-million Jose Pidal case
5. The $503-million North Rail project
6. The P728-million fertilizer scam
7. The $329-million national broadband network deal

The resolution of these cases appears nowhere in sight and now comes the very serious allegation that congressmen, governors and mayors were handed out paper bags filled with cash after a meeting in Malacañang. The recipients, who are supposed to be paragons of virtue as representatives of the people, behaved like crocodiles with their insatiable jaws wide open to catch "miraculous manna from heaven."

Gov. Ed Panlilio's admission that he received a paper bag that contains P500,000 may provide a solution to the enigma of an irregularity. He reminds me of Jason of the Greek Mythology cutting off Medusa's head which keeps sprouting. Panlilio is a breath of fresh air our country badly needs in its corruption-polluted social environment. He is in dire need of protection from himself lest Medusa decides to cut off his head instead.

I see a glimmer of hope for our country if Honest Ed will lead us as our next president and Bayani Fernando, an action man by his side, as his vice president.

—Z.C. BELTRAN,
28 Villegas St., SFDM, Quezon City

If we don't respect our laws, why would foreigners?

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARDON GRANTED BY Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to former President Joseph Estrada is the latest among the litany of sins (abuse of power and disrespect for the Filipino people) she and her administration has committed against our country.

No wonder we Filipinos find it hard to gain the respect we deserve. If we don't respect our own laws, why would others? Why would the Americans turn over the Subic rape case convict Daniel Smith to Philippine authorities? Why wouldn't an American TV show and its producers openly insult graduates of Philippine medical schools? And does it surprise anyone that overseas Filipino workers are easily accused of any conceivable crime elsewhere in the world? We can ask many, many more questions like these.

Why, indeed, would anybody respect us Filipinos when our own so-called leaders, who are vultures in disguise, are showing to the world that they do not treat us with respect?

It's pathetic how our individual efforts to gain the respect of other nations are put to naught by the selfish acts of our own leaders. May God show His amazing grace and mercy upon us and save the Philippines and give us a true leader. Let's just trust that in the end divine justice will prevail.

—RAMON MACALALAD,
mon_mac01@yahoo.com

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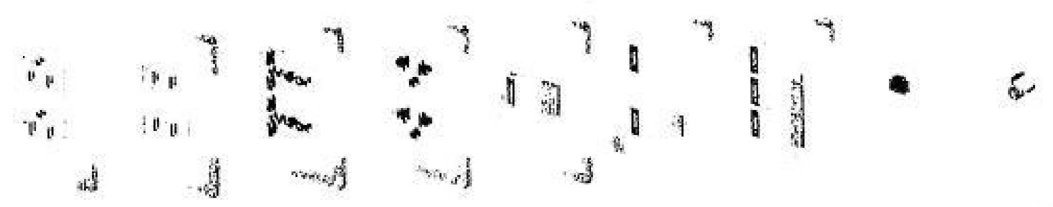

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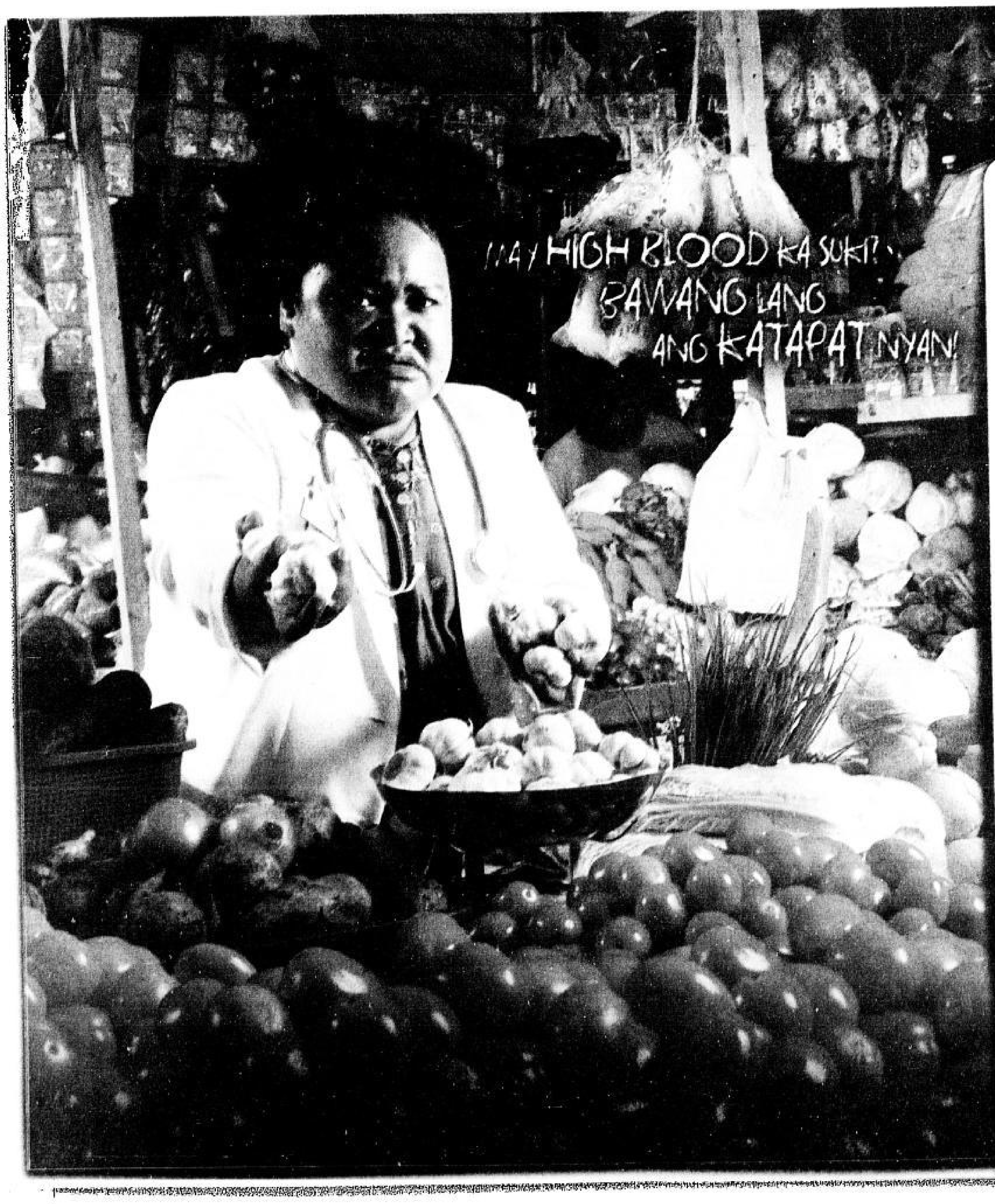
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MILF to join hunt for Lintang Bedol

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) yesterday said it was willing to help the police in hunting down controversial Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol, who police said is now a fugitive and armed.

As Bedol continued to evade an arrest warrant issued against him, Commission on Elections acting chair Resurreccion Borra on Monday said Bedol may be arrested by anyone, citing the right and the power of every citizen to arrest the poll supervisor and bring him to the nearest local police.

Request sought

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief, told the INQUIRER that the guerrilla group was willing to assist authorities in tracking down Bedol if the government would request the MILF through the Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities.

The MILF is engaged in peace talks with the government and has helped authorities in anti-crime efforts in the region.

Anti-crime moves

On May 31, the MILF helped government troops in recovering Thomas Wallraf , 44; his Filipino-American wife May Sharon Jackson, Consuela San Juan and Diego Delfin who came from Davao City and were on their way to Parang, Shariff Kabunsuan, to talk to a man claiming to be selling nickel babbits when they were abducted in Pikit town in North Cotabato.

"If there is a formal request, why not? However, we will not play a lead role in the operation," Kabalu said.

The Comelec *en banc* found Bedol guilty of "indirect contempt" for repeatedly ignoring summons for him to appear and explain the disappearance of the May 14 election returns for Maguindanao that were allegedly rigged in favor of administration candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri, who is now a senator.

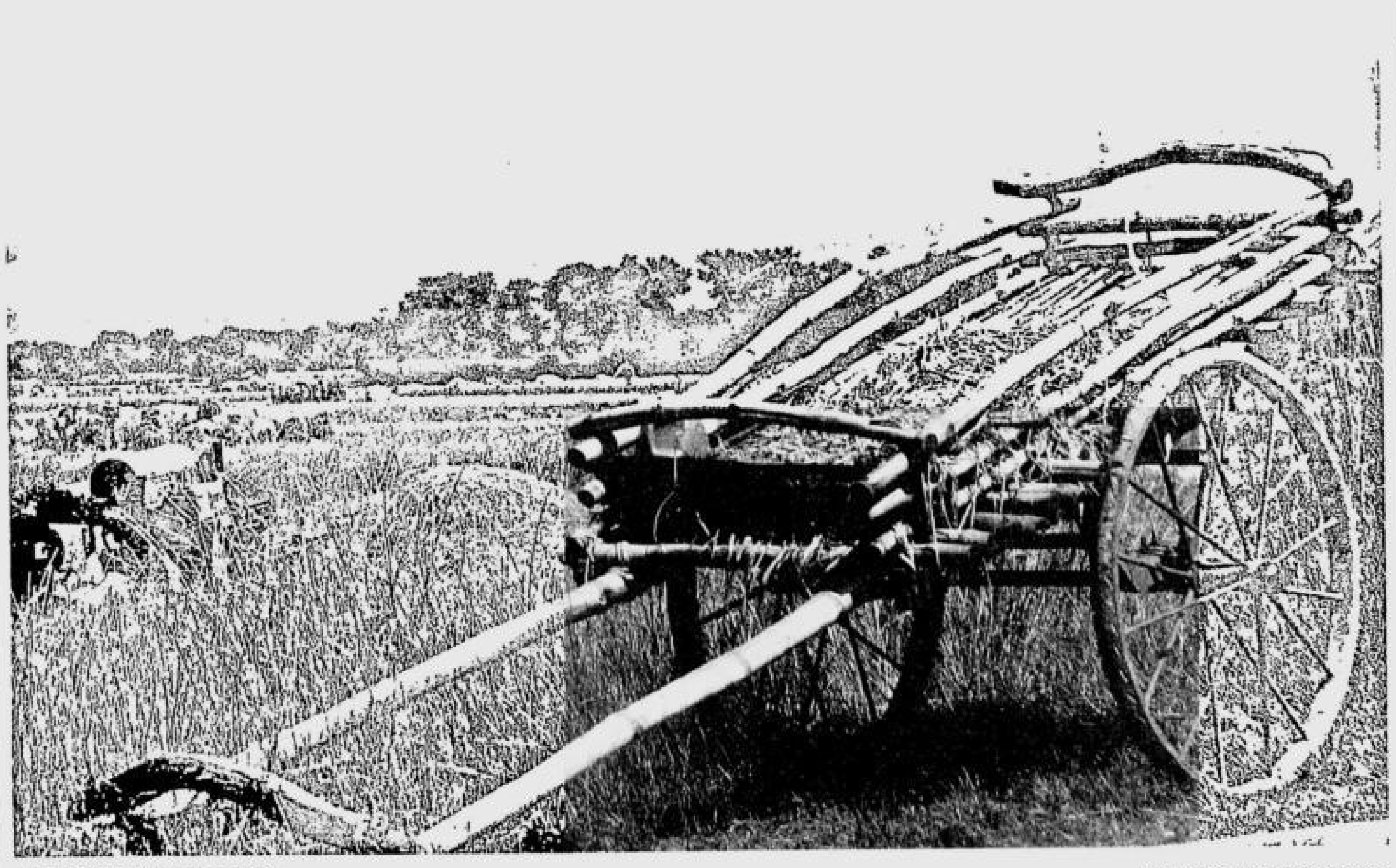
Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, welcomed the MILF's willingness to help in Bedol's case.

"It would be a big help for us but it's the Comelec that will decide on that matter," Goltiao told the INQUIRER in separate interview.

Light penalties

The poll body sentenced Bedol to six months in jail and imposed on him a P1,000 fine. Opposition and other political have described the punishment as a mere slap on the wrist, considering that his case involved the alleged rigging of vote results.

The Comelec's law department chief, Alioden Dalaig, directed the police in the ARMM to carry out the arrest order against Bedol on Oct. 23. After his arrest, Bedol will be incarcerated in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig to serve his six-month jail sentence. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



REX DAVID C. ISRAEL/CONTRIBUTOR

FARMER'S THRONE
Taken from Asingan, Pangasinan, this carabao's cart stands majestic in its simplicity. From this cart, the farmer commands control of his land.

Bayan Muna exec freed after 4 days with Army

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CALBIGA, SAMAR—THE MILItary released on Thursday the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) spokesperson in Eastern Visayas, four days after he was "invited for questioning."

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, said Flor Acbo was freed after military interrogators expressed satisfaction with his answers.

"And may I stress again that we did not abduct Manong Pong (Acbo) but we invited him for him to answer some of our questions," Ponce said on Monday.

"And we got some substantial information from him," he said, without elaborating.

Ponce said a representative from the regional office of the Commission on Human Rights was present when Acbo was released.

He said the Bayan official executed an affidavit stating that the military invited him and treated him well during his stay at the camp.

Ponce said the military invited Acbo because he was in Pinabacdao, Samar, when it received information about the presence there of 12 armed men, believed to be members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The military has named Bayan as one of the "legal fronts" of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, its armed wing.

Ponce said Acbo was freed at about 11 a.m. on All Saints' Day.

Soldiers of the 62nd IB, led by 1st Lt. Alex Elnar, picked up Acbo on Oct. 28 in Barangay Dos, Pinabacdao, eight kilometers from Calbiga town.

Arresting team

Ponce earlier said that the Bayan leader was brought to the headquarters of the 8th Infantry Division in Catbalogan City, also in Samar.

But Acbo, in a separate interview, revealed that he was detained at the 62nd IB camp in Calbiga.

"I was treated well. I was given food, which the soldiers also ate. It was OK. I have nothing to hide to them anyway and answered all these questions," Acbo said.

He said the interview conducted by the intelligence officers of the 62nd IB happened on Oct. 29.

Treated well

"I was interviewed by different intelligence agents, asking similar questions for 15 to 30 minutes," Acbo said.

He also underwent medical examination at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center in Tacloban City.

Acbo said he appreciated the good treatment given him by the military.

"At one time, I even joined a drinking spree with the soldiers," he said.

But he maintained that there was no basis to the claim of the military that Bayan was connected with the CPP-NPA.

NEWSBRIEFS

House of Aurora exec fired at

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Armed men fired at the house of the provincial administrator of Aurora in Baler town on Sunday, police said. Alex Ocampo, 50, and members of his family were unhurt in the attack that happened at 12:30 a.m. in Barangay Suklayin, according to Senior Supt. Romeo Teope, Aurora police director.

The window and windshield of Ocampo's car, a Mitsubishi Space Gear, were shattered, Teope said. The bullets came from M-16 rifles, he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

12 hurt in LPG blast in cemetery

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Twelve people, including five minors, were hurt when a portable liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank burst into flames inside a cemetery in Bacoor, Cavite, on Nov. 1, police said.

The victims were brought to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

Bacoor police chief Supt. Antonio Yarra said Rommel Benedicto, whose family visited their departed relatives at the Silangan Memorial Gardens in Barangay Ligas, was fixing a small LPG tank at 4 p.m. when it suddenly blew up. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Top NPA rebel nabbed in Cebu

CEBU CITY—A suspected leader of the New People's Army (NPA) in Central Visayas was arrested on Nov. 2 in Dalaguete town, 85 kilometers from this city.

Ricardo Belarmia, secretary of the Regional White Area Committee of the Kilusang Rehiyon Central Visayas, was arrested in his home village in Barangay Casay, Dalaguete, according to Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command.

Omandam said Belarmia, alias Ka Yuri, had long been wanted for rebellion after he was linked to several major encounters in Cebu, including the March 2006 clash between soldiers and New People's Army members in Tabuelan town where a suspected rebel was killed. *Jolene Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas Bureau*

NPA rebel slain in Samar clash

TACLOBAN CITY—An alleged New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed while three of his comrades were wounded in an encounter with Army troops in a mountainous village in Calbiga town, Samar, on Oct. 27.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, said the soldiers were pursuing suspected rebels who abducted Elizabeth Gutierrez, a candidate for barangay chair in Basey town, when they clashed with about 20 suspected rebels at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday in Barangay Guimbanga, some 20 kilometers from the town proper of Calbiga.

Ponce, quoting the report of Lt. Blas Alsiao who led the team involved in the clash, said the body of the rebel, as well as those wounded during the encounter, were taken by their companions while retreating toward the forested area of Guimbanga.

Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

Boy drowns in raging river

CEBU CITY—A 10-year-old boy drowned on Thursday when he was swept by the raging waters of a river in Barangay Cambuhawi, Balamban,.64 kilometers northwest of here.

PO3 Celso Diaz, police investigator of the Toledo City, identified the fatality as Alexis Santos Bago.

Diaz said Bago was with a group of five boys bathing in the river during a heavy downpour.

The river rose and swept one of the boys, said Diaz.

Residents found the body of Bago some 200 meters from the place where he and his friends were swimming.

Diaz said the victim was brought to the Balamban District Hospital but was already dead. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

Fire razes homes on top of graves

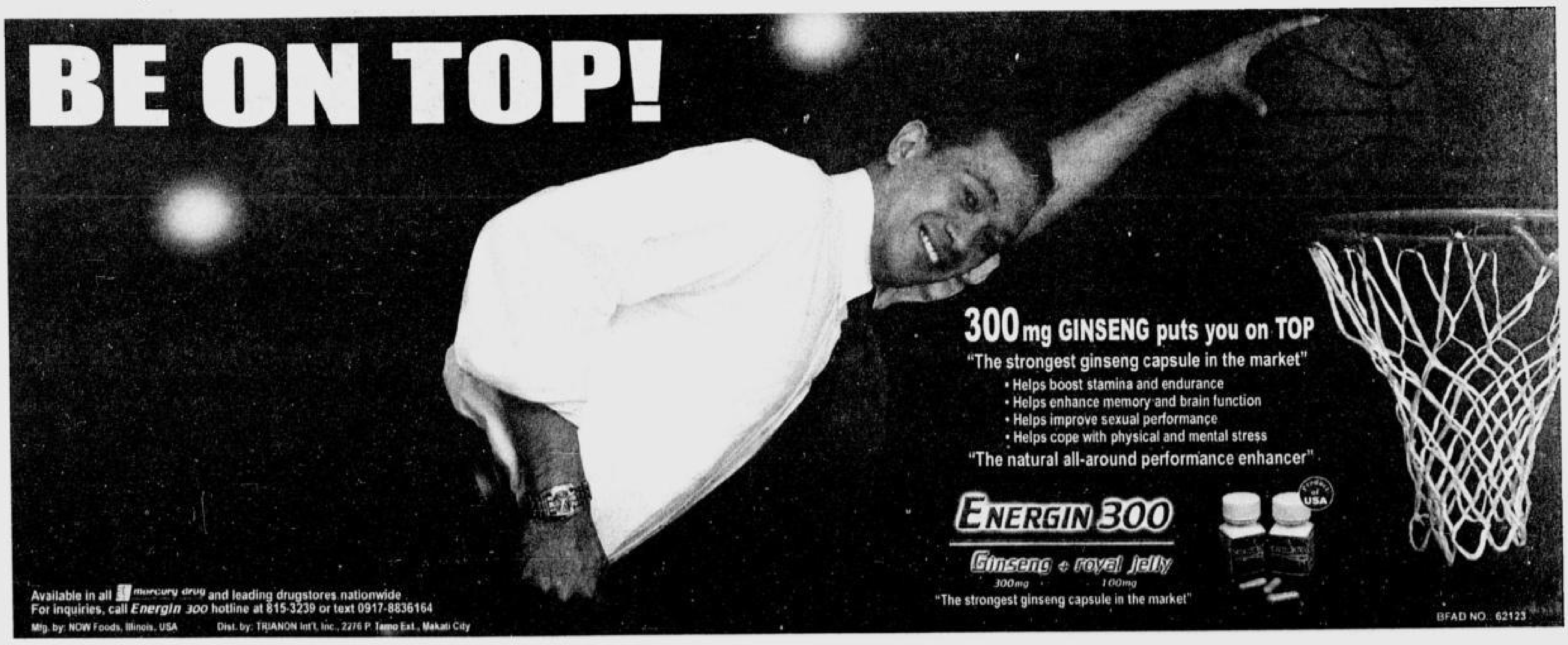
COTABATO CITY—A fire of still unknown origin razed about 120 houses in a squatters' colony built over a World War II cemetery here, ironically, on All Souls' Day.

City Fire Marshall Adam Guiamad said the fire started in one of the houses on Sinsuat Avenue in Purok Mamaw at around noon and spread to an adjacent Shell gas station, slightly burning its facade.

Adam said authorities were still trying to find out the extent of the damage.

Retired Col. Mokamad Adil, a war veteran, said the area used to be a cemetery during the time of the Japanese occupation.

"But since the area was abandoned as a burial place, city migrants built houses on it," he said.
Nash B. Maulana and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao



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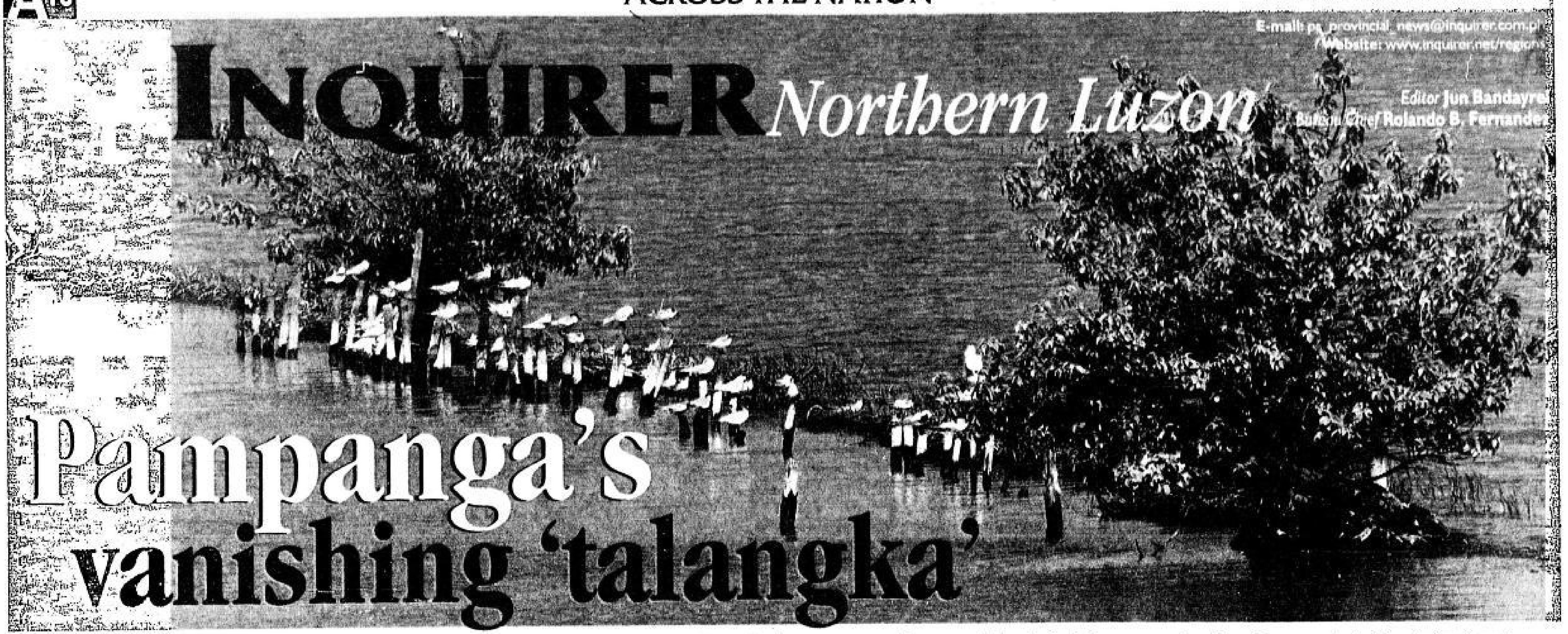

Pampanga's vanishing 'talangka'

MIGRATORY birds find home in the mangroves and swamps of Macabebe in Pampanga when the cold season starts. The destruction of mangroves in the area has resulted in lower yield of "talangka" for fishermen. TONETTE T. OREJAS

By Tonette Orejas
Macabebe, Pampanga

TERESITA CATIS, 54, USED TO EASILY FILL A big milk can with *talangka* (shore crab) in less than a minute in her native town of Macabebe in Pampanga.

Back in 1975, she remembers that the tiny crustaceans were given free by the sackful, which she would make into *buro* (fermented rice with crablets) and *taba ng talangka* (crab roe paste).

After the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, and the dredging and widening by 500 meters of the Pampanga River delta by government engineers to hasten the flow of floodwaters to the Manila Bay, the *talangka* have been a rare catch, Catis said.

This is reason enough for her to stop making the native delicacies.

"*Napakadalang na nila. Noon, nakatambak sila sa prenza kaya akala mo maitim dun* (They're very rare nowadays. Back then, they crowded the banks, giving the impression that area is dark)," Catis said of better times in her village of Consuelo. The village lies in Pampanga's boundary with Hagonoy, Bulacan, in the east and Orani, Bataan, in the west.

Because the *talangka* have been fewer every last quarter, makers of *tabang talangka* in Macabebe have been "importing" the crustaceans from Bicol to augment their raw stocks, Masantol Vice Mayor Marcelo Lacap Jr. said.

Catis knows why the *talangka* come few and far between now. "They've lost their homes," she said, referring to the mangrove forests lost to rain-swept lahar and to a Japanese-funded flood control project built in 1995.

Conversion of banks into brackish fishponds further denied them homes.

In all three causes, the mangrove forests have been destroyed and with these, the breeding grounds of the tiny marine creatures, said Mario Mangiliman, provincial agriculturist.

In Consuelo, small mangrove patches account for only 50 hectares, said Jimmy Aberin, chief of the coastal and marine management unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon.

The entire region, with a coastline of 680 kilometers, has only 900 hectares of mangroves left, Aberin said. The remaining stands are thicker in Dinalungan, Casiguran and Dilasag towns in Aurora, he said.

Central Luzon's mangrove area, however, has improved, thanks to the efforts of people's organizations to maintain plantations, Aberin said.

Because they are storm breakers, the mangroves are also sanctuaries of birds of various colors and sizes. The birds render a chorus unheard of anymore in Pampanga's urban centers.

The Manila Bay's strong waves in these days of the *amihan* (northeast monsoon) are matched by the strength of the mangroves, enabling the fishponds to withstand the beatings.

But the mangroves in Macabebe, as perhaps in other coasts in the region, have become repositories of garbage. Plastic bags, noodle and juice packs, styropor or just about any trash have clung to the roots of trees, strangling the propagules or young shoots.

Despite the situation, Catis is turning hopeful for the comeback of the *talangka* as additional food to small fishers like her family.

The local governments of Macabebe, Masantol and Minalin have formed a tandem with the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL) to rehabilitate the mangroves. Backed up by provincial Board Members Ricardo Yabut and Nelson Calara, they hope to turn the patches into protected forests as the key to making the towns as tourist destinations and center of marine resources trade.

River cruises are among the activities lined up.

ADCL Chair Renato Tayag Jr. said the program should be matched by environmental protection to "sustain the marine ecosystem that supports the communities."

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Kampi admits cash gifts

From page A1

help," she said in Filipino.

Villarosa described the distribution of the cash gifts as a "party initiative without the knowledge of the President." But she admitted that besides the Kampi treasurer, Kampi president Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Kampi chair Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno knew about the money.

She said Kampi began distributing money in 2004. She said the amounts varied from P30,000 to P150,000.

Villarosa maintained that the money was not meant to bribe congressmen even if the distribution occurred on Oct. 11, the day Ms Arroyo received a one-year immunity from another impeachment complaint other than the one filed on Oct. 5 by lawyer Roel Pulido.

She said she also gave P500,000 to La Union Rep. Thomas Dumpit who supposedly needed the money for his congressional district. She didn't say if Dumpit also got the money during the Malacañang gathering.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Dumpit.

Villarosa said "help" was also extended to some opposition congressmen on certain occasions.

"If they ask, we help," she said, but declined to identify the minority lawmakers who had supposedly benefited from Kampi's purported generosity.

Minority outraged

Villarosa's revelation outraged the minority bloc whose members yesterday asked that the committee on ethics investigate the matter.

"I am disturbed and I am distressed if this is an accurate story," an angry Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora told his colleagues in plenary.

Zamora was particularly outraged by Villarosa's revelation in another media interview that some opposition lawmakers had sought assistance from Kampi for a trip to China.

"I want to know the members of Congress who traveled to China recently and got money from the Deputy Speaker! I want to know the answer right now! Otherwise, I will be forced to ask for very drastic actions against senior members of the House of Representatives! I demand answers right now!" he said.

Villarosa immediately took the floor and told Zamora that she had been misquoted in the media interview.

Opposition lawmakers

In the INQUIRER interview, the Occidental Mindoro representative said some opposition lawmakers benefited from Kampi in the form of projects for their congressional districts.

"They may be opposition, but the place will still receive the same kind of assistance," she said.

Villarosa said Abante was given P500,000 because he was about to go on a trip to "represent the Philippines abroad." She also downplayed the amount, saying it was not that big if spent overseas.

She said she gave the amount to Abante during the Malacañang gathering through another person. In jest, she said she didn't want to personally hand it to Abante because other congressmen might notice and also ask for money.

"We are very quiet about it. We don't advertise it," she said.

Sought for comment, Abante said Villarosa had admitted to him that she was indeed the source of the money. He said the admission came in phone calls made by Villarosa on Monday and yesterday morning.

"I thanked her for that (money)," Abante told the INQUIRER. "I was a bit surprised, but considering that Kampi is allied with Lakas, I just accepted it. I had thought about returning it, but if it's a party contribution, why should I return it?"

Abante, a member of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, said returning the amount would only "embarrass" Villarosa.

Asked where Kampi got the amounts "regularly" distributed to majority congressmen, Villarosa said without elaborating: "That is our fund."

Distribution ill-timed

Villarosa admitted that the distribution of the cash gifts might have been ill-timed. But she explained that congressmen then were about to go on a three-week break so there was no more opportunity for distribution afterward.

Despite the controversy, Villarosa said Kampi would not stop distributing cash gifts to its allies.

"We will do it. We will continue the way we are. That's the reason parties are there," she said.

Military bucks bid to inspect camps for 2 missing UP coeds

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MILITARY HAS OPPOSED the request of the mothers of two missing University of the Philippines students, under the writ of amparo, to be allowed to inspect military camps, among other places.

In a reply to the writ filed yesterday afternoon on behalf of the respondents, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) denied knowledge of the purported abduction by military officials of students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño and their companion Manuel Merino. It said the police and military had been investigating the disappearance of the three.

The OSG also opposed the mothers' request for documents and military operation reports concerning military camps, saying it was akin to a "shotgun" search warrant.

"It is exceedingly evident that petitioners are engaging in a 'fishing expedition' to dig up evidence that could possibly link respondents to the alleged abduction," it said.

It also said the mothers exercised "undue haste" in seeking the writ of amparo.

The OSG likewise said the mothers' plea for P6 million in damages was improper in a plea for protection. It contested as well President Macapagal-Arroyo's inclusion as a respondent, saying she could not be sued.

The other respondents are Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, retired Generals Romeo Tolentino and Jovito Palparan, Lieutenant Colonels Rogelio Boac and Felipe Anotado, Donald Caigas, Arnel Enriquez, Lt. Francis Mirabelle Samson and the Court of Appeals' Special Former 11th Division.

The Supreme Court has directed the CA to conduct a hearing on Nov. 8 on the mothers' petition for the writ. It also required the respondents to reply to the writ by Nov. 6.

Ingrates, NPC execs call Angono artists

From page A1

sioned the group to render a mural for the military medical center with the same dimensions and only paid the group P130,000.

Lowest kind

"They are the lowest kind of artists," said Egco, a Manila Standard Today reporter covering the Quezon City beat and an advocate of allowing journalists to carry guns.

The Neo-Angono Artists Collective accused the NPC of censorship when it altered parts of the mural that the Presidential Security Group (PSG) considered "leftist marks."

The PSG inspected the mural the day before President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled it on Oct. 26. NPC president Roy Mabasa, who asked someone else to do the alterations, said the club "only wanted to keep the image of the NPC apolitical."

Among the alterations to the mural were the replacement of the International Federation of Journalists' statement on a page being read by the central figure on the mural.

The statement was painted over with a monster-bird.

Sympathy

Other alterations were the changes on the faces of Edita Burgos and her missing son Jonas and replacing the headline of the newspaper that Jose Rizal was holding, "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" with "Press Freedom Fight Is On."

Since Sunday, when reports about the defaced mural were made public, Burgos said she had been receiving text messages and e-mails from supporters here and abroad, expressing their sympathies to her and her family.

"Even my hair was altered. What has the length of my hair got to do with the NPC showing leanings to the Left or to the Right?" Burgos said.

"What was the caged monster all about? That anyone who criticizes the government is a monster who should be placed in jail? Is it a message that if you criticize, you'd end up behind bars?" she asked.

Burgos chided the NPC for allowing itself to be part of the government practice of "covering" the truth.

Doctoring reports

She said "doctoring" reports had become a practice in the military, which has now been adopted through "defacing" works of art that portray the truth.

"If they can do that to a painting, how much more to a report?" said Burgos, who has petitioned the courts for a copy of the internal military probe of the vehicles allegedly used by military-looking men who abducted her son early this year.

Jonas, a son of press freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr., was dragged from a restaurant in Quezon City into an AUV with a license plate that was later traced to a vehicle impounded at the military camp in Bulacan.

The military has denied it had anything to do with Jonas' disappearance, but has declined to release the findings of its investigation on how the license plate ended up on a vehicle used in the abduction on April 28.

Edita Burgos said the Court of Appeals had given the military until today, Nov. 7, to release the Provost Marshall report on the license plate.

Fond memories

"I am sad... I have fond memories of the NPC. The last tribute to my husband was given by the NPC. I have nothing against the officers of the NPC. I do not blame them. If the PSG is there, maybe you have no choice," Burgos said.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) said it was appalled by the defacement of the press freedom mural.

It said the NPC's explanations bolstered suspicions that the defacing of the mural was meant to please Ms Arroyo. "We can see how unveiling the mural would have been a rebuke to a president under whose watch 53 journalists have been murdered," the NUJP said.

It twitted the NPC stand to be apolitical. "When you say the NPC must be 'apolitical,' isn't this denying the historical fact that the freedom to write the truth was won through political struggles that included media and journalists?" the NUJP said.

Labor of the negative

INQUIRER columnist Randy David, whose face was depicted and defaced in the painting, said "the defacement has become the very reminder of the violence committed against freedom of the press in the Philippines."

"I hope they keep it that way," the professor said, laughing as he added that the defacing resembled what the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel described as the "labor of the negative."

"The act of defacement released a certain type of energy greater than the original energy embodied in the artwork itself. The people who defaced the original mural thought that was a way of devaluing the message I [as depicted in the painting] was able to command," he said.

"Now, the message is more powerful and sharper," he added, saying this was what always happened to defacement of works of art throughout history.

Expulsion from the NPC

Juan Mercado, also an INQURER columnist, mixed humor and seriousness in commenting on the mural, where his white hair color was retouched and made black. "Maybe I made a mistake about dying my hair," he said, laughing.

Mercado said the alterations reminded him that the NPC expelled all journalists who were detained shortly after martial law.

Egco said that once the NPC paid for the mural in full, the collective never returned even if the club demanded a few alterations on the artwork.

Egco said he would move to declare the Neo-Angono Artists Collective persona non grata, who should be barred from the "hallowed grounds of the NPC."

Richard Gappi, president of the collective, disputed claims by Egco that the mural was overpriced. "How can they say it's overpriced? We closed on that amount, and we worked around it because that was their available budget," he said.

If at all, Gappi pointed out that the NPC delayed payment of the second and third tranches of the amount. The artists were paid P260,000, P330,000 and P310,000 on different dates.

He said that the artists had to stop work for one-and-a-half weeks midway through production because the NPC failed to deliver the second tranche on time.

Gappi also said that when the artists delivered the mural to the NPC building on the morning of Oct. 23, club officials did not show up with the third tranche at the agreed time.

"We were huddled together at the ground floor like vagabonds; we waited for them from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. but they never showed up. Wire Tuazon (group chair) remarked that this was dehumanizing," he said.

The artists decided to pack up and bring the mural back to Angono. It was only the next day, Oct. 24, when the artists were able to confirm that the NPC had deposited the amount at the LandBank branch in Intramuros.

That day, the artists transported the painting back to the NPC and installed it at the restaurant on the fourth floor.

Gappi said the artists asked for P15,000 reimbursement for the food and transport expenses that they incurred when they brought the mural to the NPC on Oct. 23. The club granted this.

Gappi said he had Egco sign a certification that the contract was complete following the delivery and installation of the work. "They can't say the contract wasn't completed," he said.

Gappi reiterated that they could not send artists to retouch the mural on Oct. 25 because they were either too tired from working three straight days to rush it in time for the unveiling, or had previous commitments.

"If there were alterations, these should be approved by the board of Neo Angono. We can't just do these on a short notice," he said.

US aid to RP 'still a work in progress'

From page A1

Philippines, the US legislature was bicameral and the House and Senate versions of the aid bill had to be reconciled.

"It's still a work in progress," she said.

The US Senate has approved an increase in military aid from $11 million to $30 million that does not require a guarantee that the Philippines improve its human rights record.

However, $2 million in additional aid is contingent on the Philippine military implementing the recommendations of UN Special Rapparteur Philip Alston on disappearances and extrajudicial executions, promoting personnel who demonstrate a respect for human rights and desisting from engaging in abuses.

Speaking to reporters during the Veterans Day celebrations at Camp John Hay, Kenney said: "I think people always worry about unexplained killings. Murder is never a good thing anywhere, anyplace, anytime, and it always needs to be investigated carefully."

Kenney said the US Congress "is very interested in the Philippines. Human rights is very important to everyone, and I think the best thing we can all do is work together on it.

"The Philippine government has very good plans now for dealing with the unexplained killings. The further things the Americans are trying to do is to be helpful," she added.

"Can we help train police (and) prosecutors? Can we help support NGO (nongovernment organization) work on strengthening human rights? It seems to me what friends do is to help other friends do the best they can," she said.

Kenney said it would be difficult to pin the blame on any single politician or military officer for the extrajudicial killings.

The left-leaning human rights group Karapatan has listed more than 800 alleged victims of political killings since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President in 2001. The figure includes fatalities in armed classes. The INQUIRER count is 300.

"It's an impossible [issue] to make a blanket statement on. We should look at each case individually, work them through and [determine] who is responsible for the murder," said Kenney, who also visited the Philippine Military Academy yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, said the military had human rights courses in its training manuals since the first People Power Revolution ousted the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"The soldier after martial law knows how to address human rights," Maligalig said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo on Monday said that he had thanked the US Senate for the increase in military aid.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, referring to conditions set by the US Senate for the additional $2 million grant, told reporters yesterday that "in fact, we're already complying with the conditions."

"But what is important is the bigger bulk of the grant. Imagine, before our military assistance was $11 million and now it's $30 million and that has no conditions," Bunye said.

He said the increase was a "recognition of a very important contribution as far as the fight against terrorism is concerned, and it's also an assistance to us in terms of beefing up our capabilities."

Defense, military commitment

"It is a very clear sign of trust and confidence in the Philippines," Bunye said.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said in a statement yesterday that the defense and military establishment was committed to upholding human rights "without regard to purported conditions attached to foreign aid."

"We enjoin respect for human rights. It is an ongoing endeavor of the defense and military establishment to uphold human rights without any preconditions whatsoever," Teodoro said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has "relatively done well" in complying with recommendations of two separate fact-finding missions to ensure that the military address allegations of human rights violations, said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

"We'd like to highlight that," the AFP spokesperson said, referring to proposals made by the commission headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo and Alston.

Bacarro also said that the $2-million additional military aid would be used primarily for the AFP's capability upgrade in the fight against terror.

If the US Senate decided not to release the additional funding, the AFP would "continue performing our job based on the available resources that we have," he said.

"Anything extra or over and above what we are receiving now would be much welcome because it will be used for increasing the capability of the AFP in dealing with terrorism and the final recipients wouldn't be the AFP but the Filipino people," Bacarro said.

"If we have better equipment, better capability, the more we can secure the Filipino people," he said.

AFP measures

Bacarro said that among the concrete steps the AFP had taken include:

- Creation of an AFP Human Rights Office intended to oversee and monitor cases of human rights violations filed against soldiers.
- Setting up of five general court-martials that will specifically try cases of human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by military personnel.
- Reinforcement of human rights subjects, which have been taught in military schools since the 1990s, in career courses taken up by military officials.
- Stressing command responsibility among field commanders to make sure they are aware of their men's activities in their areas.
- Issuance of a "human rights clearance" for the promotion of officials holding the rank of colonel and above, including those holding "critical positions," and those applying to study overseas.
- Transparency and commitment of the AFP to cooperate in the human rights cases filed against military personnel before the Justice Department.

13 officers probed

Bacarro said that there are on-going pre-trial investigations involving 13 military officers and enlisted personnel who were allegedly involved in human rights violations.

"We would like to highlight that in the AFP, it is not our policy to conduct these extrajudicial killings. We have been very, very clear about that," Bacarro said.

He also stressed that the AFP "does not engage in acts of intimidation."

"There might be some rogue elements. There might be some individuals who in a way have committed infractions of human rights and these are the ones that we can present if there is appropriate charges against them," he said. "Let them have their day in court."

Erap told to pay gov't ₱600M in 5 days

From page A1

No. 1 Polk St. in North Greenhills, San Juan City.

The antigraft court has ordered Urieta to enforce the confiscation of Estrada's assets "in favor of the government."

When he met with the 70-year-old Estrada, Urieta said he explained to him the mechanics of the writ of execution. "He has to pay us within five days," Urieta said.

In 5 days

If Estrada cannot produce the cash in five days, the court will be compelled to put his Polk Street residence and his estate in Tanay, where he spent six years under house arrest, on the auction block, Urieta said outside Estrada's residence.

"We will embargo it and then we will auction it off in favor of the government," the sheriff said.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division convicted Estrada of two counts of plunder on Sept. 12, sentenced him to up to 40 years in prison and ordered the forfeiture of his ill-gotten wealth. The court acquitted him of perjury.

Two weeks ago, Ms Arroyo pardoned Estrada, who was ousted by a popular revolt in January 2001, and ordered him released from house arrest. The pardon did not lift the court's order to confiscate Estrada's ill-gotten wealth.

Illegally obtained wealth

The court ordered the forfeiture of Estrada's illegally obtained wealth worth at least P545.29 million plus interest. The sum represented payoffs from the illegal numbers game "jueteng," and commissions from the trading of Belle Corp. shares, using funds from the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System.

The ill-gotten funds included P200 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; the P189-million commission he received from the purchase of Belle shares, which ended up in the Jose Velarde account, and the "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

Estrada, who was a popular actor before he entered politics in 1969, said he did not have the funds demanded in the court's order.

He pledged to exhaust all legal means to prevent the government from getting its hands on his properties.

Get money from Chavit

Instead of demanding the money from him, Estrada said the government should demand the cash from ex-Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, the government's star witness in the impeachment trial of Estrada. "He's the jueteng collector," the former president said.

As for the mansion in New Manila, Quezon City, Estrada said the government should get it from businessman Jose Dichaves.

He insisted that the "Boracay" mansion was owned by the businessman and that he had only borrowed it for a time. Dichaves's whereabouts are unknown.

Urieta said the Sandiganbayan would ask the proper government agencies to assess the value of the property on Polk Street and the estate in Tanay to determine if they could cover Estrada's liabilities.

Hard-earned money

But if the government thinks that it can forfeit his Tanay and San Juan real estate assets easily, it is mistaken, Estrada said.

"I will tell my lawyers to fight it out," the ousted President said. "What is rightfully mine, you will never be able to get."

"I worked hard as an actor and producer for the money I spent in buying this (Polk Street house) and the Tanay property," Estrada said.

Estrada said he bought the Tanay estate in 1969, while the Polk Street residence has been under his family since 1971.

"Documents will show and prove that this was not bought when I was President," he said. He added that his siblings also contributed to the acquisition of the property in Greenhills.

Edward Serapio, Estrada's lawyer and fellow accused, said defense lawyers would file in the Sandiganbayan a motion to quash the writ of execution.

Serapio also questioned the court's interpretation that it could forfeit the ousted President's real estate assets.

Acquired legally

In its Sept. 12 decision, the Sandiganbayan specified the Estrada assets that would be forfeited but did not include the real estate assets, Serapio said.

He said the Tanay estate and the Greenhills residence were not acquired illegally.

After serving the writ of execution, Urieta headed for New Manila to inspect the palatial residence located at No. 100 on 11th Street.

The so-called Boracay mansion, which was named after the popular beach resort and was said to be the home of an Estrada mistress, was owned by St. Peter's Holdings.

The abandoned residence is now a sad echo of its luxurious past, with broken roofs, rundown walls, and peeling paints. The entire 7,400-square-meter lot is filled with overgrown weeds and trees.

"We are going to put a writ of execution on the gate tomorrow," Urieta said.

He added that the court would notify the Quezon City Registry of Deeds of the forfeiture.

US envoy backs 'accidental gas explosion' theory

From page A1

community would "obviously want to know why it happened."

The only US Embassy advisory still in place warns American citizens to be cautious when travelling to some areas in southern Philippines, according to Kenney.

She repeatedly corrected reporters who referred to the blast as a "bomb attack," telling them that it was "an explosion."

Speculative

While saying that it was not completely ruling out the terror angle, the PNP has stood by its finding that the explosion that killed 11 people and injured more than 100 others was likely caused by a gas buildup in the Glorietta 2 basement that was ignited by accident.

It said investigators from the Australian Federal Police and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as Israeli experts, had backed this finding.

But on Sunday, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), operator of the Glorietta shopping complex, presented the findings of its own foreign consultants that contradicted the police theory.

ALI called on the PNP to "really look into other angles," saying the gas explosion theory was "highly unlikely" given the conditions in the mall basement before the blast.

Yesterday, ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes reiterated that "it is speculation at this point to say that [the blast] is an accidental explosion when authorities have not yet concluded their investigation."

"Our local and foreign experts have concluded that the explosion could not have originated from the combustion of methane or diesel," Reyes said.

"We are cooperating fully with the PNP, and we are giving them access to all of our findings in the hope that this may be useful in their investigation," he said.

US AMBASSADOR Kenney talks with retired Gen. Aristeo Ferraren who, at 94, is the oldest living hero to show up at the Baguio City leg of this year's Veterans' Day celebrations at the US ambassador's residence. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Reyes also said it was too early to talk about the courts acting as the final arbiter on the conflicting positions of the ALI and the PNP, as Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, had said.

"Let us allow the investigation to run its full course. The authorities have not yet finished their report and it is too early to begin discussing court proceedings when the investigation is not yet concluded. We do not wish to add further speculation when no specific findings have been established," Reyes said.

Horrified

According to Kenney, "a tragic accident is exactly that ... a tragic accident."

"We were horrified [when we heard about the explosion]. That is the place where we shop. I shop there often. That is where the people go often. And in fact we lost good friends of the embassy—a couple of family members of Filipino employees of the embassy," she told the INQUIRER at a Monday dinner she hosted for local reporters.

Yesterday, when she hosted the Veterans Day celebration at the Ambassador's Residence in Camp John Hay, Kenney again told reporters that the US government was satisfied with the finding that the explosion was an accident.

"Our experts have communicated this to the [PNP] ... Maybe the police could conclude their investigation and take all of the evidence into account. That's their job. We're merely here supporting them," she said.

Kenney made no reference to the terror angle in the explosion, but cited the Philippines' alliance with the US-led war on terrorism.

"The forces of the Philippines and the United States defend our peace from those terrorists who would deprive us of the opportunity to live in freedom and enjoy our prosperity," Kenney said in a speech during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Meeting at NBI

The National Bureau of Investigation will meet with experts tomorrow regarding the pieces of evidence gathered from the Glorietta 2 basement, lawyer Romulo Asis, head of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said yesterday.

FILIPINO and American soldiers raise their national colors during an advance celebration of Veterans Day hosted by US Ambassador Kristie Kenney at Camp John Hay in Baguio City on a foggy Tuesday. The guests included Filipino and American veterans who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NOTHERN LUZON

Among those expected to attend the meeting at the NBI headquarters are experts from the Departments of Energy (DOE), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

"I believe the investigation wouldn't be complete without the experts' opinion on the matter," Asis told reporters.

"We hope we can get mechanical and sanitary engineers from the DPWH to determine if the sewage treatment facility of the mall was properly installed, experts from the DOE to determine the ramification of methane gas, which could have caused the explosion, and experts from the DENR to determine if the establishment had an environmental compliance certificate," he said.

Mining engineer Arturo Santos, of the DENR's Mines and Geo-Science Bureau, had a preliminary meeting with Asis yesterday morning.

Asis said he also intended to take the experts to the blast site for an inspection.

On Friday, authorities sifted through the wreckage in the mall basement and retrieved pieces of electrical equipment, including circuit breakers and a pump motor.

Asis said the items gathered had been turned over to the NBI for safekeeping.

He said the bureau would examine the items in the presence of representatives of the ALI, PNP and other concerned government agencies.

'Glaring' proof

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday urged the Ayala family, the majority owner of ALI, not to toss the blame for the explosion to others.

"The proof of their negligence is very glaring," Enrile said. "The Ayalas cannot shift the burden of responsibility as the experts who corroborated the findings of the police are volunteer experts, not paid groups."

The senator also said that if the blast were a terrorist act, "do the Ayalas think the US and other countries will not immediately come forward and denounce what happened at Glorietta?"

At a press conference on Sunday, ALI president and chief executive officer Jaime Ayala read out the assessment of Stephen Etheridge, a chartered scientist of the United Kingdom's Science Council and a specialist on wastewater with special expertise in biogas production, and Burgoynes, a consulting firm specializing in forensic probes of fires, explosions and engineering failure.

These experts said that, among other things, biogas was unlikely to have been produced in the mall basement's sump pits, which collect wastewater, because conditions for its production were absent.

They also said the accumulation of biogas in the basement was also unlikely because it would have been vented through a large open stairwell leading to the delivery bay.

With reports from Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson, Tina G. Santos and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila

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Spain's blogging granny a hit with young surfers

From page A1

has surprised herself with her sudden conversion from Web-illiterate to cybercelebrity.

"At first I thought a blog was just a type of paper notebook," said Lopez, a great-grandmother.

"When I saw my grandson using the Internet, it caught my attention. I said to myself 'What's this? You can find out about anything. I want an Internet!'"

With 60,000 regular readers so far, Lopez's homely mix of memory and chat, available at http://amis95.blogspot.com/, attracts regular readers from around the world, putting her in touch with the younger generation in a way she had never imagined.

"No one pays any attention to old women any more. Not many people love us. But I was surprised by the Internet, because young people who were 18 years of age, or 14 or 15, tell me about their lives and what they think and ask my advice," Lopez said.

Only one in 10 people over the age of 65 use the Internet in Spain, slightly below the European average. Although that proportion has nearly doubled over the last two years, it still suggests older citizens are missing out on the digital revolution even though they make up a growing portion of the population.

"Age is more important (to determining Internet use) than income, gender . . . or level of education," said Domingo Laborda, an official of Spain's Ministry of Industry.

The proportion of Internet users declines even more steeply after 65. Only 2.7 percent of over-74s have ever surfed the Net.

But technology can help break down the isolation brought so often by advancing age.

"Although nothing can make up for affection, the Internet can help communication, with mail, chat or messaging, and it's fun and always available," Laborda said.

Loquacious

Visit Lopez's home in the village of Sanxenxo in the rainy northern Spanish region of Galicia, and you'll see her ability to pour out words on the Net is matched by her loquaciousness in person.

"I was always talkative, but now I feel more wanted, embraced, because so many people write to me," Lopez said.

On her blog, she would make occasional references to her youthful good looks ("Ah, how pretty I was, and how little I realized it"). But today, she has white hair and walks with a stick.

"Look at what I was," Lopez wrote in one entry beneath a photograph of herself from 60 or 70 years ago, "And look at what I am, at what I have become. My eyes aren't pretty, nor my mouth, or anything, not my body. Age disfigures everything."

"The Internet has given me life," she told Reuters, describing how she receives messages from places as diverse as Brazil, Russia and Japan.

Lopez has called herself "the world's oldest blogger," although a quick Google search reveals several pretenders to the title, including 108-year-old Australian Olive Riley, who can be found at www.allaboutolive.com.au/.

Civil war memories

Due partly to cataracts which mean she can't see screens well, Lopez is assisted in her blogging by her grandson Daniel, who takes her dictation.

Many of her stories deal with a long life, which started happily and then had to steer through the vicious Spanish Civil War and the long years of dictatorship by Gen. Francisco Franco which followed.

"I had a very happy youth," she wrote, describing expeditions to bullfights and fun times with her cousins.

"Young men were different back then. They brought us flowers, gardenias, violets, chocolates. Not like the foul-mouthed bunch today."

It was one of these polite young men who told her of the war's outbreak in 1936.

"He had left-wing ideas . . . the boy said to me 'Maria Amelia, this is a revolution!' And I began to hear shooting," Lopez blogged, describing how later that day her father was chased out of his job at a customs office by Franco's men.

Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has written to congratulate Lopez on her blog and she recommends other senior citizens to take up blogging.

But it's not all easy.

"I'm going to die before I get broadband," read one recent, sad entry. *Reuters*

FVR slams Estrada for politicking so soon after pardon

By Tarra Quismundo

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos yesterday criticized ex-President Joseph Estrada for politicking so soon after his pardon, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo for failing to get government leaders together.

Speaking to reporters before flying to China for an education and economic forum, Ramos said politics may be seen as being behind Estrada's post-pardon activities, referring to the opposition leader's recent sorties to Manila's slums.

Ramos said Estrada's visit to Vitas and "Smokey Mountain," a former garbage dump in Tondo, could be taken to mean that "he is campaigning for certain people."

"It's already in the headlines. Somebody from Makati wants to be the opposition presidential candidate for the year 2010," said Ramos in apparent reference to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, chair of the United Opposition, the coalition supported by Estrada.

"And somebody from San Juan City is being built up to be either vice president or president or the prime minister, depending on our constitutional setup when that time comes," he continued, this time referring to Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

"Well, that's good for (Estrada). Because you know, once you are fully released from controls by the detention authorities, you must enjoy yourself. Apparently, that's what he enjoys," said Ramos, lightening up and smiling momentarily.

"However, it's giving the wrong signal, which may be discomfiting to the administration leaders, as well as the opposition leaders," said Ramos, who had opposed the grant of executive clemency to Estrada barely a month after his conviction for plunder.

Summit of 4 living presidents pushed

By Michael Lim Ubac

AMID THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES faced by the Arroyo administration, the stage is being set for a reunion of past and present Presidents to pursue an elusive goal—unity for the country.

The first-ever meeting among President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada is envisioned as a "bold step that will finally unite the country and trigger a big economic push," according to Jesus Aranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI).

Aranza said the meeting, coming on the heels of the executive clemency for convicted plunderer Estrada would greatly improve the country's political and business climate because of the four leaders' "sheer influence."

Estrada, who was ousted in the second People Power revolution of 2001, was convicted of plunder in September by the Sandiganbayan antigraft court for taking more than half a billion pesos in bribes. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but Ms Arroyo extended a presidential pardon to the disgraced ex-president a little over a month following the judgment on the grounds that he was already 70 years old.

But even before the FPI pushed for the reunion of presidents yesterday, the idea was broached in a meeting on Saturday among Ms Arroyo, Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia and key leaders of the ruling Lakas-CMD party, according to an administration official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to preempt the official announcement of the summit, said party leaders found the idea of the "living Presidents" seated together "unprecedented."

It will augur well for unity, reconciliation and peace in the country, the official said.

The official said the event would be more than a "photo op," and would have tangible results since it "can lead to a calm political environment that provides an avenue for all stakeholders to engage and advance the economy."

The meeting between Ms Arroyo and the three past Presidents could lead to the revival of the Council of State, an exclusive top-level body which advises the Chief Executive on matters of national importance, the official said.

The three former Presidents are automatic members of the Council of State. Created by Aquino in 1987, its other members include the Senate President, the Speaker, the House deputy speakers, the Senate president protempore, the majority and minority leaders of both chambers of Congress, the executive secretary, Cabinet members and leaders of the leagues of governors, mayors and councilors.

DENR hit over fishkill decision

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS YESTERDAY criticized the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' recent decision clearing mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. of accountability in the fishkills that hit five barangays on Rapu-Rapu island on Oct. 26-28.

The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said it was "hasty, prejudiced, and unscientific" for the DENR to clear Lafayette this early.

"What kind of twisted and befuddled logic would conclude that Lafayette is totally free from accountability when even the DENR itself admitted that it had yet to determine the root cause of the fishkill?" Clemente Bautista Jr., Kalikasan-PNE national coordinator, said in a press conference.

Lafayette yesterday claimed the fishkill report was a hoax, adding that it was looking at its legal options against the culprits behind the false report.

"There was no fishkill in the immediate vicinity of our project and in other municipalities going to the Poblacion area," said lawyer Bayani Agabin, Lafayette spokesperson.

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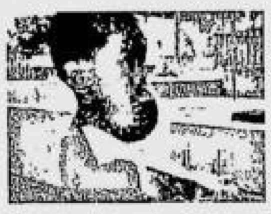

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Rom 13:8-10
Gospel:	Luke 14:25-33

One day, when large crowds were walking along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "If you come to me, without being ready to give up your love for your father and mother, your spouse and children, your brothers and sisters, and indeed yourself, you cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me carrying his own cross cannot be my disciple.

"Do you build a house without first sitting down to count the cost to see whether you have enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you have laid the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone will make fun of you: 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

"And when a king wages war against another king, does he go to fight without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand can stand against the twenty thousand of his opponent? And if not, while the other is still a long way off he sends messengers for peace talks. In the same way, none of you may become my disciple if he doesn't give up everything he has."

Commentary

Do we think of ourselves as being in debt to one another in love? How deeply and faithfully do we love? And do we love all our neighbors, from our enemies and strangers to our friends and loved ones? Do we need to look at what needs to be undone and corrected? Jesus is clear about the depth and breadth of what commitment to following him means in regard to our families, our work, and our own personal lives. Do we pick up the cross—what is laid on us because we live our lives in public, devoted to Jesus' justice, the care of the poor, and the proclamation of the truth of God's Word? Are we serious about our baptismal promises—at least as serious about them as we are when we start a new job, or a business, or building a house, or an addition to what we have? Are we as astute in our dealings with one another and making peace among all and with God, as we are when it comes to our finances and future? Is our future wrapped in God?

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Gomez makes it; Luat crashes out

DENNIS Orcollo prepares to break against Hong Kong's Kenny Kwok. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Musong R. Castillo

MAKE WAY FOR ANOTHER FILIPINO longshot.

Robert Gomez, a qualifier from Zamboanga, marched into the Last 64 of the $400,000 World Pool Championship at the Araneta Coliseum last to make up for the exit of a local bet who was expected to figure prominently.

Gomez dismantled two foreign veterans in a five-hour span and became the 12th Filipino to make the knockout phase, a consolation of sorts for a steam-rolling Philippine side that lost veteran Rodolfo."Boy Samson" Luat after just two matches.

The 28-year-old Gomez broke free from a 6-all game against Niels Fiejen, winning the final three racks against the Dutch for a 9-6 victory before showing complete control against big Indian Dharminder Singh Lilly.

Gomez, who won the Battle of Scandinavia 8-Ball in Norway and the Pacman 10-Ball in General Santos recently, raced to a 7-3 lead against Lilly, before prevailing, 9-4, to advance opposite Pole Harald Stolka.

"I was lucky I was able to get out of my chair in my first match," Gomez said in Filipino after he broke that 6-all tie. "The second match was very different because I was able to gain early control."

Luat, meanwhile, simply could not recall the form that made him a quarterfinalist here last year, bowing to Singapore's Toh Lian Han, 6-9, before taking the door completely after a 3-9 loss to Englishman Darryl Peach.

That made him only the second Filipino to hit the showers after Antonio Lining in Day 2. The Philippines is looking to put a 13th man in the main draw with Dennis Orcullo needing just one more win to advance.

Orcullo was unforgiving in his debut, racing to a 6-0 lead before hammering Hong Kong's Kenny Kwok to submission, 9-4, to draw Japan's Satoshi Kabawata as his next foe for a Last 64 seat.

Ronnie Alcano, after making the knockout phase last a year ago, will have top seeding in the Last 64.

American Shane Van Boening, the consensus favorite, also won his opening match last night, but not after going through the wringer opposite Taiwan's Chang Yau-mau, 9-8.

The defending champion Alcano, who outsteadied German gun Ralf Souquet in the title match last year, lost just a total of four racks in two matches going into the first phase of the money rounds.

A curious pairing in the round-of-64 is the Jeff de Luna vs Lee Van Corteza match as both Filipinos go for each other's throats—the draw eliminating one man for the Philippines.

Alex Pagulayan, the 2004 winner in Cardiff, will play Vietnam's Pham Tuan Ngoc, Marlon Manalo drew Pole Radoslav Babica, Francisco Bustamante will have Spain's David Alcaide as a foe and Ramil Gallego slugs it out with Taiwan's Kuo Po-cheng.

Fire hits idle WPC table

ACTION IN THE FOURTH DAY OF the 2007 World Pool Championship literally got hot yesterday.

A billiard table lighting caught fire as soon as it was turned on. Tournament staff rushed to put out the fire but were not able to save the pool table felt.

No one was near the table when the incident happened.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

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Murder raps filed vs Gonzalez, driver

No bail recommended for suspect in stepbrother's death

By Tina G. Santos

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THE OTHER DAY filed charges against businessman and grandson of former President Elpidio Quirino, Luis Gonzalez, and his driver Antonio Buenaflor, in connection with the death of Gonzalez's stepbrother.

Gonzalez and Buenaflor, who are accused of killing Federico Delgado inside the victim's house in Malate, Manila last March 10, were charged with murder in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

"There is reasonable ground to believe that the accused are probably guilty of the offense charged," Senior State Prosecutor Edwin Dayog said.

He recommended no bail for the temporary release of the suspects, who remain at large.

The charges were filed after acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera reversed the findings of a Manila prosecutor who recommended the dismissal of the charges against Gonzalez and Buenaflor.

Devandera noted that Annalisa Pesico, Delgado's companion who was with the victim when he was killed, had positively identified the suspects as the ones who stabbed Delgado and then mauled her before locking her up in a closet.

"Consistent with the established jurisprudence on the matter, the positive identification of respondents as the perpetrators has to prevail over their denials and alibis," she said.

"While respondents and their witnesses may have claimed that (Gonzalez and Buenaflor) were elsewhere when the offenses were committed, there is nonetheless no clear and convincing evidence showing that it was truly impossible for them to be at the scene of the crimes and commit them. The possibility is not foreclosed that indeed, they could have been there and have committed the offenses charged," Devanadera added.

The police report showed that Delgado was found dead in his apartment at the Mayflower building on Leon Guinto Street

MURDER/ A22

Beyonce in town for one-night concert

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SINGER Beyonce Knowles waves to photographers and reporters upon her arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. JESS YUSON

INTERNATIONAL POP SUperstar Beyonce Knowles flashed a wide smile upon arriving in Manila yesterday afternoon.

Here for a concert in Taguig City, Knowles and her 70-member entourage—composed of her crew, musicians and personal security—arrived on board a chartered jet at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 2:10 p.m.

Knowles will appear tonight in her one-night only show at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City.

Her arrival drew a crowd of photographers, reporters and airport workers who waited patiently for the star under a light drizzle on the airport ramp.

Before Knowles' appeared, a flight attendant came out of the jet to place a floral arrangement at the bottom of the stairs and a blue carpet on the landing.

Her private security, who were clad in black, positioned themselves around a parked Ford Excursion while scanning the crowd.

A few minutes later, with a bodyguard ahead of her, Knowles emerged from the aircraft.

Descending the airline steps with care, the singer smiled and waved at the media who waited for her behind a security cordon.

The 26-year-old artist, the voice behind hits like "Irreplaceable" and "Baby Boy," wore a white long-sleeved shirt and tight-fitting jeans.

Flanked by her bodyguards and locally hired private security, she paused briefly to face photographers before boarding the waiting SUV, part of a five-car convoy.

Photo opportunity

Airport workers and even police grabbed the chance to snap shots of the superstar using digital cameras and camera phones.

Knowles' aircraft, a 172-seater MD-83 jet, flew in from Shanghai, China.

The chartered Blue Line plane will stay at the Naia's remote parking area until the artist flies out tomorrow morning.

EPD cops to seek new ruling on Boratong case

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE WILL USE ALL LEgal means to pursue the murder case filed against the Boratong couple, whom they accused of operating a compound of shabu dens in Pasig City which was raided last year, Eastern Police District chief, Senior Supt. Nilo de la Cruz, said yesterday.

"We are not happy about it," De la Cruz said in a phone interview, referring to the recent court order dismissing the murder case against the couple.

"We will exhaust all legal remedies," he added.

According to De la Cruz, they are studying possible legal steps to overturn the ruling of Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 161 Judge Nicanor Manalo Jr. who dismissed the murder case and lifted the warrants of arrest against the accused.

The Boratong couple, Amin Imam and his wife, Memie, were accused of masterminding the death of German Colisao, an informant of television network GMA 7.

The prosecution alleged that the two ordered PO2 Ramil Along and Nashir Labay to kill Colisao after they caught him videotaping the activities inside the shabu compound in Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig City in November 2005. The police raided the compound in February 2006.

In his order dated Oct. 22, Manalo granted the defense motion to dismiss the case, saying he found no probable cause for filing the murder charges against the Boratongs, along and Labay. He also noted that "there was no proof or eyewitness" to the alleged crime.

De la Cruz and Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said they were "surprised" at the ruling and found Manalo's order "suspicious."

They noted that it contradicted his July order mandating that the accused be arraigned.

DID YOU KNOW

VILLAMOR Air Base in Pasay City, headquarters of the Philippine Air Force, was named after World War II hero Jesus Villamor.

Villamor was born on Nov. 7, 1914 in Abra province. He studied at aviation schools in the US and later became an officer of Philippine and US soldiers who were then fighting the Japanese forces. For his outstanding service, he was awarded the Medal of Valor, the US Legion of Merit and the US Distinguished Flying Cross, among others.

After the war, he helped plan the construction of the Manila International Airport and was appointed director upon its completion.

Villamor died in 1971 in Washington, D.C. His remains lie at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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Sacks found in Taytay yield 4 bodies

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE ARE TRYING TO identify two men and two women—one of them pregnant—whose bodies were stuffed separately into sacks and dumped near a bridge in Taytay, Rizal province yesterday morning.

According to a report by PO2 Arnold Timan, the bodies were discovered by Mandy Saulog, 35, and Joven Gonzales, 23, while they were monitoring the daily garbage disposal in Sitio Tapayan, Lupang Arienda, Barangay San Juan at around 5:30 a.m.

Both witnesses, employees of the Taytay Municipal Hall, said they noticed a foul odor coming from the sacks.

When the police arrived on the scene, they discovered that the sacks contained bodies.

One of the women wore a pair of yellow jeans and a pink blouse, while the other woman, who appeared to be pregnant, wore a white T-shirt and denim pants.

Both were said to be around 20 years old.

One of the two men was clad in a pair of denim jeans and a black T-shirt while the other was also wearing denim pants and a white T-shirt. Both were said to be between 35 and 40 years old.

Timan said the victims' bodies showed bruises. They were also hogtied and their mouths were covered with masking tape.

Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the Calabarzon region, said it was unclear how the victims were killed.

He added that agents of the Scene of the Crime Operations in Rizal province were still examining the bodies.

"We believe the victims were killed somewhere and were just dumped in Taytay. We have yet to ascertain if they were shot or stabbed to death," Belarma said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

With a report from Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Murder raps . . .

From page A21

after his companion, Pesico was able to escape. She then told police that she and Delgado had just entered his apartment when two men attacked them.

Pesico said the suspects stabbed Delgado and then mauled, hogtied and locked her up inside a dressing room.

Pesico added that she heard the suspects "searching the room." She said she managed to untie herself hours later and sought help from the police. Delgado was found lying in a pool of blood at near his room with three stab wounds in the chest.

The name "Franco," written in blood, was found on the wall near the victim's body.

Delgado was the son of former Ambassador to the Holy See Francisco Delgado who was married to the late Vicky Quirino, his second wife and Quirino's daughter.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the families of both Gonzalez and Delgado for comment, but calls to their cell phones went unanswered.

METROBRIEFS

Man shoots Japanese editor

A JAPANESE journalist yesterday survived a shooting incident in Pasig City that stemmed from a traffic altercation. Yoshihiko Sakai, 43, editor of a Manila-based Japanese newspaper and a Pasig City resident, said that a man on board a motorcycle fired at his vehicle twice at 3:45 a.m. while he was driving on Shaw Boulevard. Sakai, who was driving a van, said he and the unidentified motorcycle driver were trying to overtake each other. "It was not work-related," he added. According to the Japanese, he did not see his assailant. Sakai was not injured and immediately reported the incident to the police. ***Kristine L. Alave***

Munti workers to receive bonus

EMPLOYEES of the Muntinlupa City government are in for an early holiday treat with the release of their Christmas bonus next week. Mayor Aldrin San Pedro made the announcement during Monday's flag raising ceremony. "I have instructed our treasury office to immediately release the Christmas benefits of employees so they can prepare earlier," he said. The employees will receive their 13th month pay and cash gift on Nov. 15. "I want to give them their Christmas benefits earlier as a reward for their hard work," San Pedro said. The mayor also expressed optimism that the early bonus would encourage employees to work harder in providing better services to the public. "We will review our records to know what additional benefits can be given to them," he added. ***Julie M. Aurelio***

NBI raids computer shops

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation have seized P650,000 worth of computers containing unauthorized software programs during simultaneous raids conducted on establishments in Makati, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Manila. Raided recently were Pantertech on Evangelista Street, Bangkal, Makati City; Compex Sucat Inc. at SM City Sucat in Parañaque; Brochiere Computers at Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa; and Save on Surplus at SM City Manila. NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Elfren Meneses said the raids were prompted by complaints from Microsoft Corp. about the firms' unauthorized use of its software. ***Tina G. Santos***

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines System Bids and Awards Committee, Diliman, Quezon City invites all interested RICE BIDDERS/SUPPLIERS to bid for 7,500 (approximately) sacks of rice with total approved budget ceiling of Php 7,500,000.00.

Bidding will be conducted on November 23, 2007 (Friday) at the UP Board of Regents Room, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed proposals should be submitted to the UP System Supply and Property Management Office (UPS-SPMO), University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City not later than 9:00 a.m. on November 23, 2007 (Friday) at the UP Board of Regents Room, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza), University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City for the selection of rice supplier.

The Pre-bid conference will be held on November 12, 2007 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at UP Board of Regents Room, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza), UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City.

Bid documents at Php 8,000.00 per set are available starting November 7, 2007 at the UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Contact Person Mr. Isagani L. Bagus, MPA, Officer-in-Charge, UP System SPMO, Telefax No. 926-4919.

The University of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) Professor **ARIEL S. BETAN**
Assistant Vice President for Administration and
Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 7, 2007)

Former houseboy says employer made him sex slave for six years

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 33-YEAR-OLD MAN HAS SUED HIS FORMER employer whom he claimed made him his sex slave for six years.

Charged with rape and acts of lasciviousness in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office was Vittorio Romero Cruz, a resident of Acropolis Subdivision, Libis in Quezon City.

According to the complainant, a native of Bugallon, Pangasinan, it was only recently that he realized "that the things done to (him) were bad."

He claimed he was only 18 when he started working as a houseboy for Cruz who allegedly raped him repeatedly from October 1992 to January 1998 before he was able to escape.

The alleged victim added that Cruz had threatened to file robbery charges against him if he resisted.

The complainant said he was forced to give in to his employer's sexual advances and to endure the beatings he would occasionally receive from his employer.

In January 1998, he was able to slip out of the respondent's house where he claimed he was locked up.

The man added that he was compelled to file charges against Cruz after he learned that the former had victimized other men.

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Unidentified man shoots QC law enforcer

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A POLICE OFFICER IS IN CRITICAL condition after he was shot by a still unidentified suspect in Quezon City yesterday morning.

PO3 Armolito Rosauro of the Quezon City Police District Station 2 was rushed to the Far Eastern University Hospital for gunshot wounds in the face and arm. At press time, he was still in the operating room.

According to PO2 Michael Cabrera of QCPD Station 5, Rosauro was on board his van parked in front of the North Fairview Elementary School in Barangay North Fairview at 11:35 a.m. when the incident happened.

While waiting for his child to come out of school, Rosauro was approached by a man who began firing at him. The suspect then walked away casually, witnesses told the police.

Authorities said they found two shells from a cal. .45 in the area where Rosauro was shot.

Police said they were still trying to determine the identity of the suspect and his motive for shooting the victim.

Office of the President of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT STAFF
Malacañang

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the President-Presidential Management Staff (PMS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all interested Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) registered suppliers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of the following:

Name of Project	**Procurement of Three (3) Units of Motor Vehicles for the PMS**
Location	PMS Central Office
Brief Description	To provide three (3) units of motor vehicles for the PMS in accordance with the desired specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php3,500,000.00)
Source of Fund	Additional Release from FY 2006 Budget, RA 9336 as reenacted chargeable against over-all savings
Period of Delivery	5 days upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with the value of the largest single contract at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget of the project for bidding. They should also have their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) duly filed through the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) for FY 2006, in accordance with Executive Order No. 398, series of 2005, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The list of minimum requirements as indicated in the Terms of Reference and in the Instruction to Bidders. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time/Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	05 November-12 November 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	12 November 2007, 2.00 PM at the 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	26 November 2007, 1:00 PM at the 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila
4. Opening of Bids	26 November 2007, 2:00 PM at the 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from the address and contact numbers below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) to the PMS Cashier:

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
4/F PMS Building, Arlegui Street
San Miguel, Manila
Contact Nos: 734-3971 to 86 local, 162; 734-2192 (TF)

Only the bids of eligible bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives, as evidenced by the Special Power of Attorney or Board resolution. The opening of bids shall be done right after the checking of the eligibility requirements.

The PMS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The PMS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

ASSEC. ELIZABETH M. GONZALES
Chairperson, PMS-BAC

Manila, 22 October 2007
(PDI-November 7, 2007)

Disabling of N. Korea's nuke arsenal starts

WASHINGTON—US EXPERTS on Monday launched an unprecedented process to disable North Korea's nuclear arsenal at the key Yongbyon atomic complex under a multilateral agreement, the State Department said.

"This is a positive first step in the process," said Tom Casey, a department spokesperson, as the nine experts began work to disable the plutonium production facilities at the complex.

The team led by Sung Kim, the head of the US State Department's Korea desk, "had in fact arrived at Yongbyon and they are beginning their activities there in terms of starting with the first aspect of disablement of the facilty," Casey told reporters.

"Yes, the process has started," he said. "Obviously it is going to be a process that is going to take some time," he added.

Casey did not give details on what had been undertaken so far in the disablement of the plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon which was shut down in July under a six-party agreement.

North Korea agreed to end its nuclear weapons drive in return for aid, security and diplomatic guarantees under the agreement among the United States, the two Koreas, China, Russia amd Japan.

Disablement aims to make the reactor and other plants unusable for at least a year while talks on total denuclearization continue.

The North, which staged its first nuclear test in October 2006, has agreed with the five negotiating partners to declare and disable all its nuclear program by year-end.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, quoting diplomatic sources, had reported that the chief nuclear negotiators from the six nations recently agreed 11 disablement measures at the three major plants at Yongbyon.

It said these include the withdrawal of about 8,000 spent fuel rods from the five-megawatt reactor, the only one in operation in the country.

Yonhap said the removal of the rods, which weigh some 50 tons in total, was expected to take at least six weeks. The US team was expected to keep them in a cooling pond until a decision is made on how to dispose of them. *AFP*

Hollywood screenwriters strike over compensation

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD screenwriters went on strike against major film and television studios on Monday, knocking some of America's favorite TV shows out of production in a dispute that hinges on how the Internet is changing the face of show business.

Some 12,000 members of the Writers Guild of America walked off the job starting at 12:01 a.m. after last-ditch talks with a federal mediator collapsed, setting the stage for the first major Hollywood work stoppage in nearly 20 years.

The talks foundered on the inability of the two sides to come to terms on how writers should be compensated in an era of burgeoning digital technologies, such as broadband Internet and hand-held wireless devices, that are reshaping entertainment.

The greatest initial impact of a strike will be felt on television, as prime-time comedies and late-night talk shows such as NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman," are forced into immediate reruns.

"There will be no 'Tonight Show' tonight," declared one of Leno's head writers, Joe Medeiros, as he walked a picket line outside NBC in Burbank. "None of us wanted a strike. We were driven to this. I'm fighting for the future of every writer."

Leno himself showed up to hand out doughnuts to striking writers on the first day of what some experts predicted would be a prolonged and costly dispute.

"My expectation is that we're in for a long strike, and it will end up in a Pyrrhic victory," said Howard Suber, professor emeritus at University of California Los Angeles and author of the book "Power of Film."

While the late-night talk show circuit relies on a steady supply of topical jokes and sketches, many sitcoms also took a quick hit because they depend on a substantial amount of last-minute script rewrites.

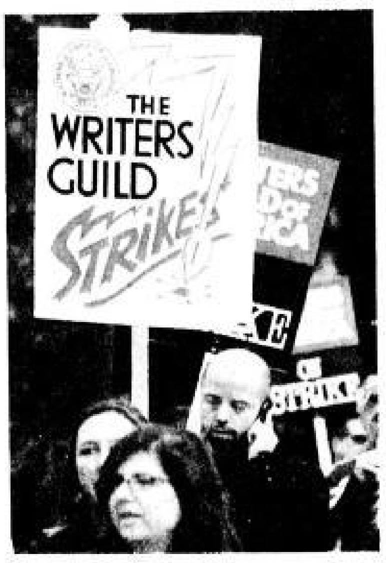
"We stopped production as of today. All of our writers are here," said former "Seinfeld" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus, whose latest show, CBS sitcom "The New Adventures of Old Christine," was one of the first casualties of the walkout.

She joined striking writers outside Warner Bros. television studio, one of 14 Los Angeles-area sites picketed by the union, including studios owned by Walt Disney Co., Time Warner Inc., Viacom Inc. and News Corp.

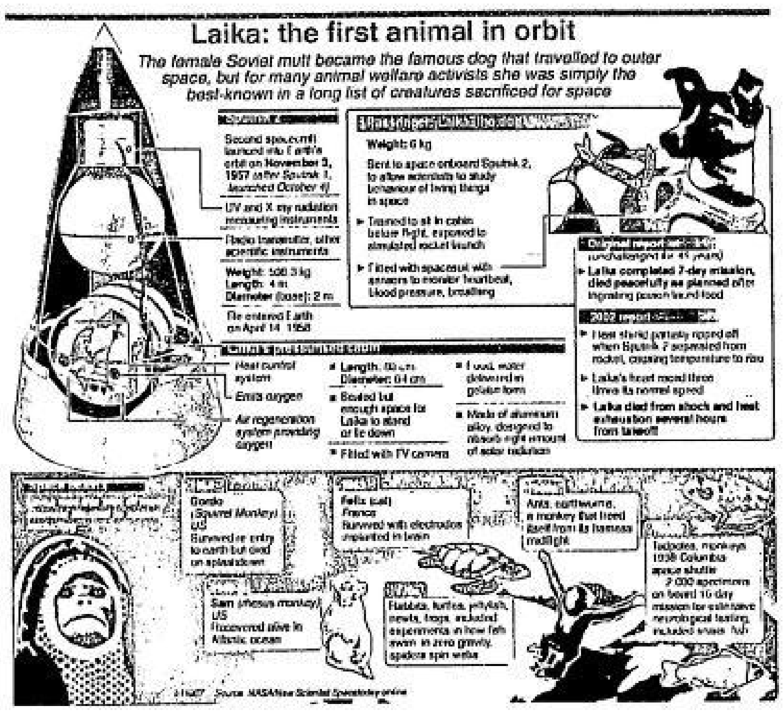
The first picket lines went up outside NBC headquarters at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, where "Saturday Night Live" veteran Tina Fey, who currently stars on, writes and produces the NBC sitcom "30 Rock," was on hand.

"This strike affects the show in which I work," she said. "We put our pens down yesterday, and we will not write until negotiations resume." No further negotiations were scheduled.

Producers of some prime-time series, especially dramas, have worked feverishly for months stockpiling episodes in hopes of riding out a strike until January or even February. Once those shows run dry, networks will be forced to air repeats or "strike-proof" programming not covered by the WGA contract, such as reality shows, news and sports. *Reuters*


THE
WRITERS
GUILD
STRIKE!

SEAN Jablonski a writer for the television show Nip/Tuck talks on his cell phone while joining picketers outside the entrance of CBS Studios in Los Angeles. AP


Laika: the first animal in orbit
The female Soviet mutt became the famous dog that travelled to outer space, but for many animal welfare activists she was simply the best-known in a long list of creatures sacrificed for space
Second spacecraft launched into Earth's orbit on November 3, 1957 (after Sputnik 1, launched October 4)
UV and X-ray radiation measuring instruments
Radio transmitter, other scientific instruments
Weight: 508.3 kg
Length: 4 m
Diameter (base): 2 m
Re-entered Earth on April 14, 1958
Heat control system
Emits oxygen
Air regeneration system providing oxygen
Length: 80 cm
Diameter: 64 cm
Sealed but enough space for Laika to stand or lie down
Fitted with TV camera
Food, water delivered in gelatin form
Made of aluminum alloy, designed to absorb right amount of solar radiation
Weight: 6 kg
Sent to space onboard Sputnik 2, to allow scientists to study behaviour of living things in space
Trained to sit in cabin before flight, exposed to simulated rocket launch
Fitted with spacesuit with sensors to monitor heartbeat, blood pressure, breathing
Laika completed 7-day mission, died peacefully as planned after ingesting poison-laced food
Heat shield partially ripped off when Sputnik 2 separated from rocket, causing temperature to rise
Laika's heart raced three times its normal speed
Laika died from shock and heat exhaustion several hours from takeoff
Gordo (Squirrel Monkey) US Survived re-entry to earth but died on splashdown
Sam (rhesus monkey) US Recovered alive in Atlantic ocean
Felix (cat) France Survived with electrodes implanted in brain
Ants, earthworms, a monkey that freed itself from its harness midflight
Rabbits, turtles, jellyfish, newts, frogs, included experiments in how fish swim in zero gravity, spiders spin webs
Tadpoles, monkeys 1998 Columbia space shuttle 2,000 specimens on board 16-day mission for extensive neurological testing, included snails, fish
Source: NASA/New Scientist Spaceflight online

Gene explains why breast-fed babies are more intelligent

LONDON—A VERY COMMON gene can help explain why breast-fed babies tend to grow up to be more intelligent than those raised exclusively on bottled milk.

Breast-fed babies who shared the genetic variant outscored bottle-fed peers in intelligence tests, researchers said. The variant to the FADS2 gene, involved in processing fatty acids, is found in about 90 percent of people, they added.

"For 100 years, the intelligence quotient has been at the heart of scientific and public debates about nature versus nurture," Terrie Moffitt of Kings College London and colleagues wrote in their report, published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Evidence that nature and nurture work together drives a nail in the coffin of the nature-versus-nurture debate." The study looked at 3,200 children in Britain and New Zealand.

Breast-feeding has many advantages for children including reducing infections, respiratory illnesses and diarrhea, earlier research has shown. A study presented at an American Heart Association meeting on Monday added healthier blood cholesterol levels to that list.

Although scientists have been looking at potential links between breast-feeding and intelligence for decades, the direct relationship has not always been clear.

The researchers studied the FADS2 gene involved in processing omega 3 fatty acids found in foods such as salmon, nuts and avocados and turning them into nutrients for the brain.

In both countries, breast-fed children had a higher IQ by about 6 to 7 points, but only if they had a variant that made the gene more efficiently process fatty acids. *Reuters*

30-year jail term eyed for Fujimori

LIMA—PERU'S TOP prosecutor on Monday asked the Supreme Court for a 30 year prison sentence for former president Alberto Fujimori, three weeks before the start of his trial on kidnapping and murder charges stemming from his 1990-2000 rule.

On filing the charges at the Supreme Court's special criminal court, Jose Pelaez also asked that Fujimori pay $33 million in damages for the death of 25 people during paramilitary raids in 1991 and 1992 in a Lima neighborhood and its university.

He demanded two further payments of $99,300 each for Fujimori's role in the kidnappings of a reporter and a university professor by the same death squad.

Extradited from Chile in September, Fujimori on Nov. 26 will face trial on Pelaez's charges. He also has three other trials pending on charges of abuse of power, corruption and embezzlement, also allegedly committed under his iron-fisted rule. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Antiterror raids in Europe

ROME—Italian police launched dawn raids in Milan on Tuesday targeting about 20 people suspected of recruiting suicide bombers for attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ANSA news agency reported. The antiterrorist operation ordered by a Milan court was also under way in France, Britain and Portugal, according to the Italian all-news channel Sky-TG24. The raids uncovered remote electronic detonators and poisons, as well as instructions on guerrilla warfare techniques, ANSA said. Officers were searching for foreign nationals suspected of having formed "jihadist" cells, ANSA said, adding that the investigation had begun in 2004. *AFP*

22 bodies in Iraq mass grave

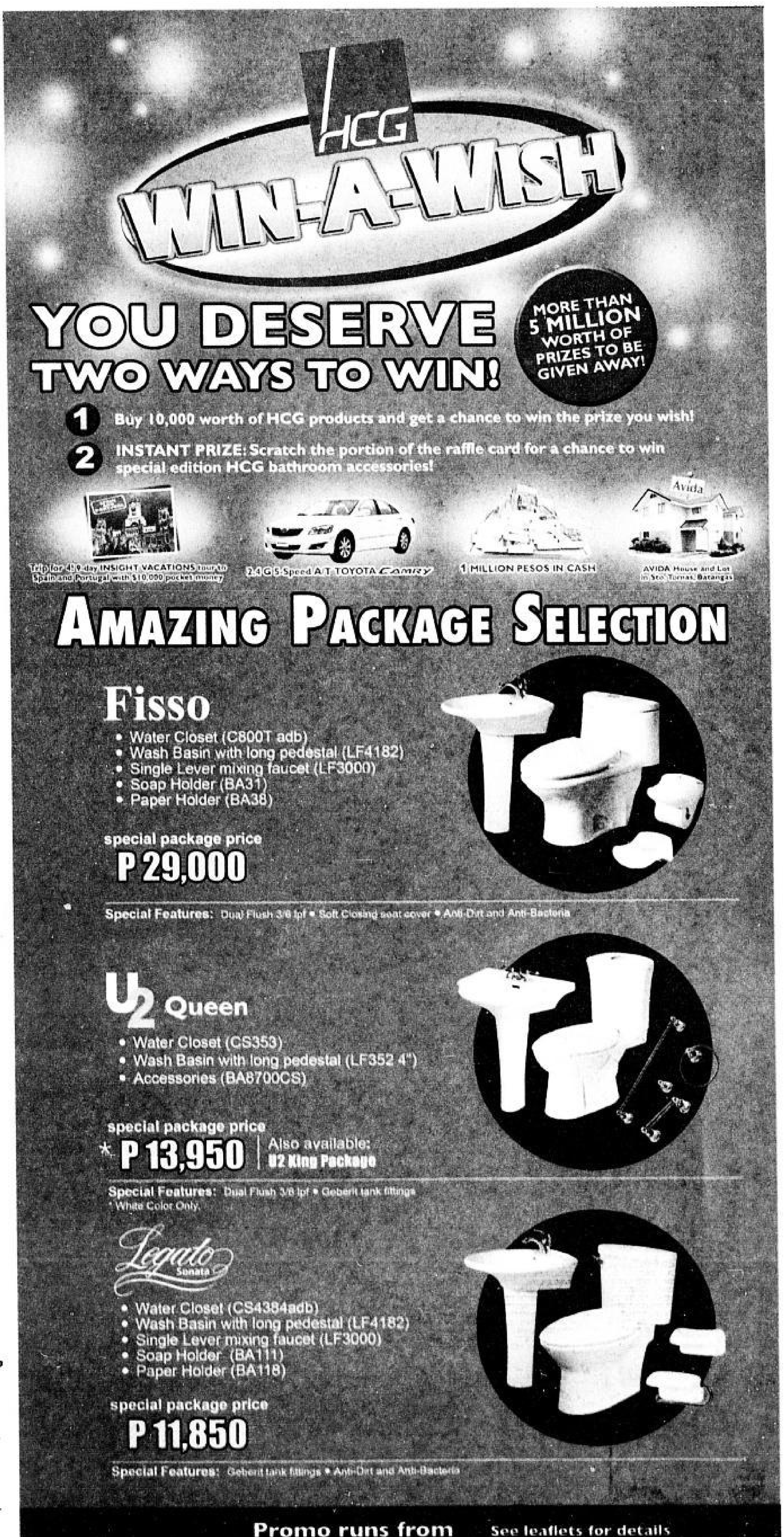
BAGHDAD—Iraqi forces have uncovered a mass grave containing 22 bodies near a vast lake northwest of Baghdad, the US military said on Tuesday. It said the grave was discovered on Saturday near Thar Thar lake, which spans the central-west provinces of Anbar and Salaheddin, during an operation by US and Iraqi forces targeting al-Qaida hideouts. "The Iraqi Army and provincial security forces are investigating the mass grave to determine the identities of the deceased and the causes of death for notification of their families," the military statement said. *AFP*

16 feared dead in mudslides

VILLAHERMOSA—At least 16 people were missing feared dead on Tuesday after a mudslide struck a small village in flood-hit southern Mexico, as local people complained of chaotic relief work and looting. Heavy rain over the past days triggered a "severe" landslide that sent part of a hill in the southern state of Chiapas crashing into the Grijalva River, the Interior Ministry said in a statement on Monday. The landslide "momentarily covered the community of San Juan de Grijalva" with mud and water, the statement read. "According to preliminary information ... at least 16 people are missing," it added. *AFP*

Workers win case vs Dole, Dow

LOS ANGELES—Six workers left infertile after exposure to a pesticide used in Nicaraguan banana plantations were awarded more than $3 million damages by a Los Angeles jury on Monday. Jurors at Los Angeles Superior Court ruled that food giants Dole and the Dow Chemical Co were jointly liable for the physical damage suffered by workers who harvested bananas in Nicaragua during the 1970s and 1980s. The Dow-manufactured pesticide was used by Dole to kill microscopic worms in banana tree roots.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Musharraf vows to hold elections

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S MILITARY RULER Pervez Musharraf promised to push ahead with elections amid international outrage on Tuesday over his emergency rule, with the United States demanding a return to democracy.

With images of police firing tear gas and beating protesters going around the world and warnings of a break in foreign aid, the president said January's planned polls would be held "as close as possible to the schedule."

US President George W. Bush called on Musharraf, a key ally in the battle against al-Qaida and the Taliban, to end the state of emergency, quit as Army chief and restore democratic rule.

"We expect there to be elections as soon as possible and that the president should remove his military uniform," Bush said.

"Our hope is that he will restore democracy as quickly as possible."

On Monday, dozens of lawyers were wounded and hundreds in the first major show of public dissent since Musharraf imposed a state of emergency on Saturday, citing a crisis caused by Islamic extremist violence and hostile judges.

Officials said 1,500 people had been arrested since then.

"Police have detained potential troublemakers, law-breakers and those who defied a ban on rallies," interior ministry spokesperson Javed Cheema said.

The biggest protest was in Lahore, where lawyers with bleeding head wounds were bundled into vans after police fired tear gas at around 1,000 protesters outside the high court.

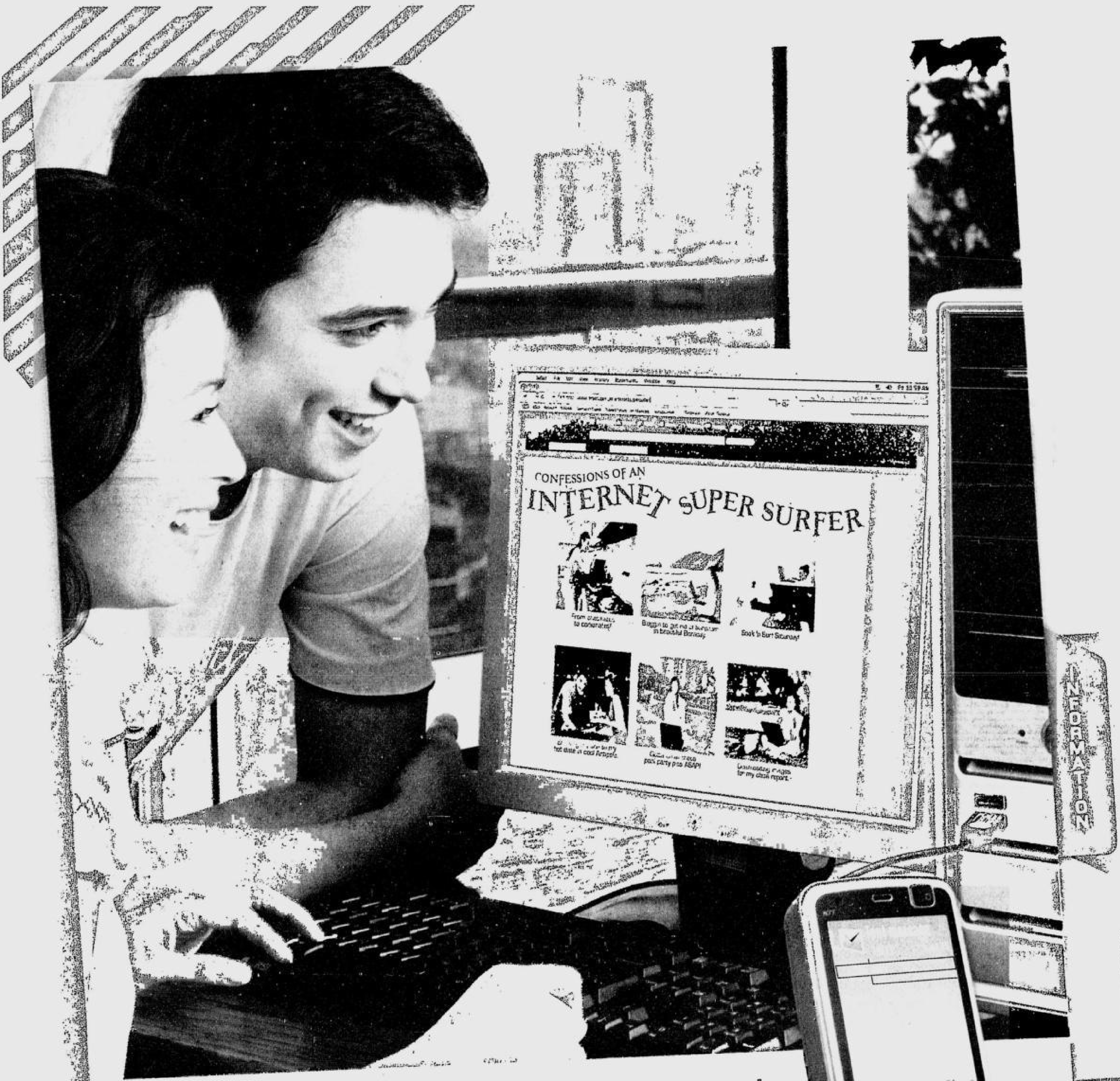
In Karachi, police and paramilitary soldiers charged at lawyers, detaining another 100. Clashes were also reported in Rawalpindi, Multan and Peshawar.

In a sign of the raging uncertainty gripping the nuclear-armed nation, the government was obliged to deny rumors Musharraf had been placed under house arrest by his own armed forces.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon was "greatly concerned" at the situation and has urged Musharraf to free detainees immediately and restore democracy, his spokesperson said.

As well as declaring emergency rule, Musharraf suspended the constitution, sacked the nation's chief justice and brought in media controls—measures he said were needed to stop Pakistan committing "suicide." *AFP*

MUSHARRAF AP



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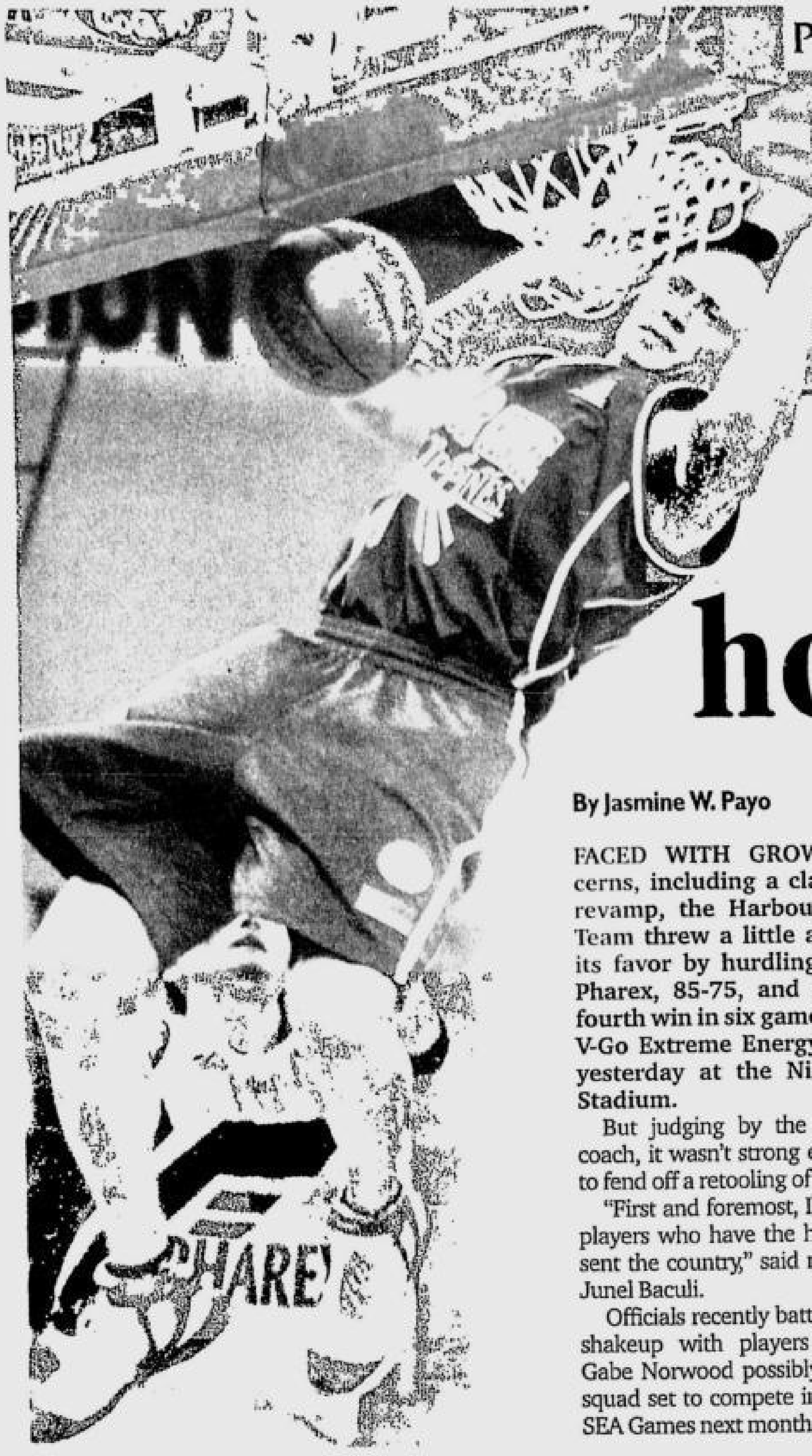
Mavericks ground Rockets /A28



ALEX Crisano of the RP squad slams one in. RYAN LIM

RP scores, but can't hold off revamp plans

By Jasmine W. Payo

FACED WITH GROWING CONCERNS, including a clamor for its revamp, the Harbour-Philippine Team threw a little argument in its favor by hurdling newcomer Pharex, 85-75, and clinched its fourth win in six games in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

But judging by the words of its coach, it wasn't strong enough a case to fend off a retooling of its roster.

"First and foremost, I'm looking for players who have the heart to represent the country," said national coach Junel Baculi.

Officials recently batted for a roster shakeup with players like Hapee's Gabe Norwood possibly boosting the squad set to compete in the Thailand SEA Games next month.

RP/ A26

PBA to clarify disputed rules, seeks to allay fears of coaches A26

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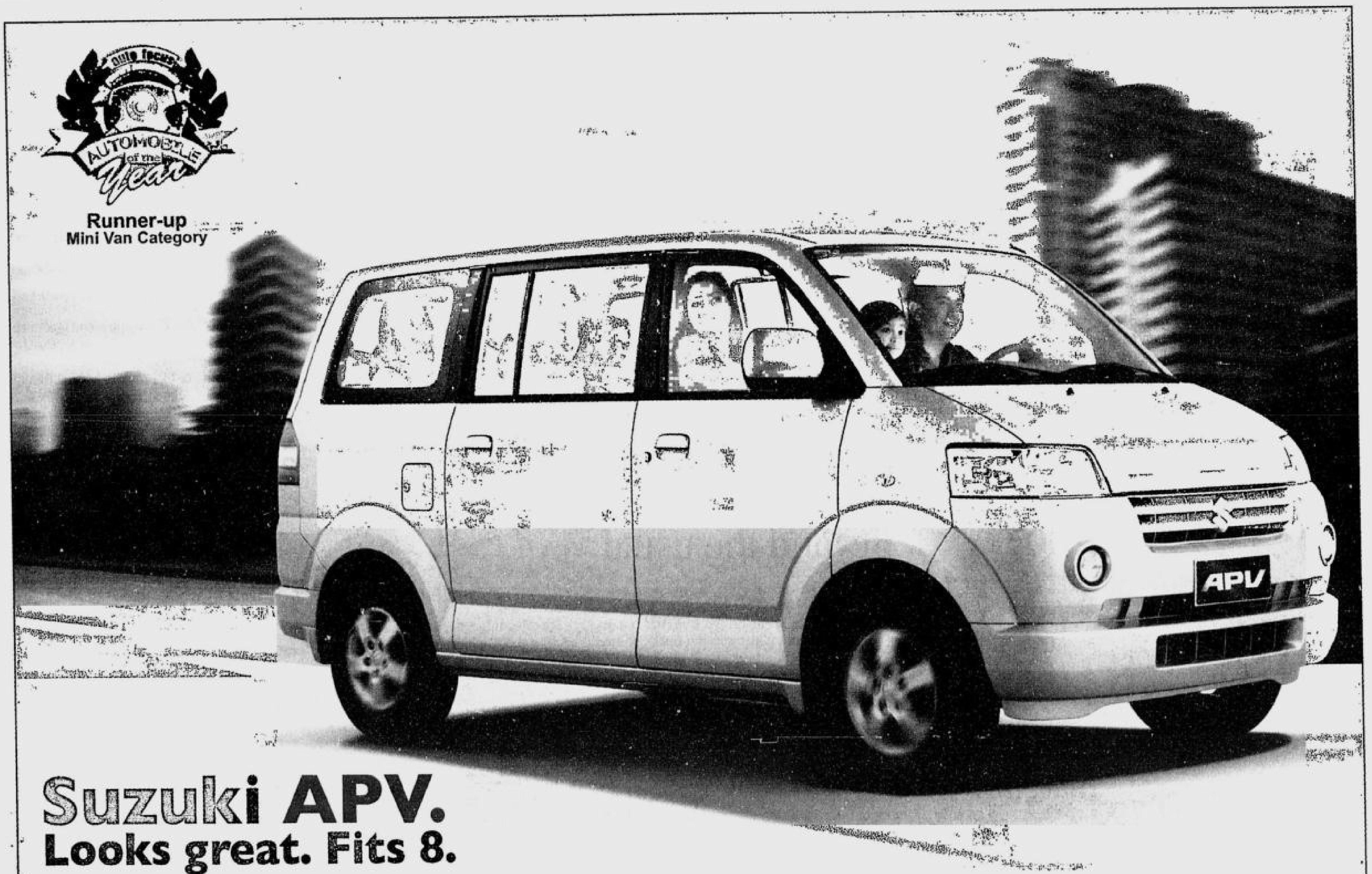
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UAAP finalists La Salle and UE are seeded first and fourth in the tournament. RYAN LIM

Archers, Lions head Champs League cast

By Romina S. Austria

THEY HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY'RE the best in their respective leagues. It's time to test their true worth when ranged against other champions.

The country's best collegiate teams, led by University Athletic Association of the Philippines champion La Salle and National Collegiate Athletic Association winner San Beda, will mix it up in the Fil-Oil/Flying V 5th National Collegiate Champions Cup starting Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Green Archers earned the top seeding in the 16-team with the Red Lions ranking second.

Ateneo, UAAP third placer, and defending champion University of the East are seeded third and fourth, respectively.

La Salle capped its comeback from a one-year suspension with a sweep of UE in the UAAP. It was the Taft-based squad's seventh league championship since joining the league in 1986.

San Beda beat Letran for its second straight title and 13th overall.

Players seeing action in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) will be allowed to play for their respective college teams, according to chair Reynaldo Gamboa.

Last year, UE defeated San Beda in the tournament final with Jose Rizal U placing third over Mapua.

Santo Tomas, Far Eastern U, JRU, San Sebastian and Mapua are also in the Champions' League fold.

Other league titlists competing are Manuel L. Quezon University (Cusa), STI (Naascu), St. Francis of Assisi (Ucaa), University of Visayas (Cessafi), West Negros College (Negros).

Rounding out the cast are Tacloban's Sacred Heart College, Unigames third placer Lyceum and the winner of the ongoing Davao collegiate league.

La Salle, UV, San Sebastian and the Davao champion are bracketed in Group A while the Warriors head Group B, which also includes FEU, STI and MLQU.

San Beda is in Group C along with UST, Mapua and Sacred Heart College.

Group D is made up of Ateneo, Jose Rizal, WNC and Lyceum.

The champion of the knockout-format event, which will run until Nov. 28, wins P500,000 worth of sports scholarships. The next three finishers will get P200,000, P100,000 and P50,000.

Smart has also put up special prizes for the Most Valuable Player (M.V. Pangilinan Cup awardee), Mythical teams, best defensive team, coach of the series and the best performing referee.

PBA to clarify disputed rules

League allays fears of restive coaches

By June Navarro

REACTING TO BRICKBATS THROWN BY the league's coaches, the Philippine Basketball Association has decided to clarify the controversial new set of rules that has transformed the action on the court into a highly physical contest.

PBA legal counsel Chito Salud yesterday said the league's technical committee headed by Perry Martinez would try to explain the rules and their rigid implementation to the mentors.

Coach Tim Cone of Alaska has criticized officials for allowing flagrant contacts which he said disrupted the flow of the game while Red Bull's Yeng Guiao has expressed confusion over the league's definition of a foul.

"I think the sentiment all boiled down to one thing—these coaches are asking for a more constant implementation of the existing rules," said Salud, son of former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud.

Salud stressed that a foul should be called when there is a clear and hard attack.

"The rules say that a foul takes place when a player holds, pushes or charges into an opponent—that is a foul," he explained.

Salud added that the rules allow incidental contacts or the effort of a player to perform the normal movements in defense like hand-checks.

PBA chair Tony Chua earlier asked the Commissioner's Office to review the rules with the coaches.

Four games into the season, Guiao said his Bulls have yet to distinguish a foul from a clean contact. They will face the same dilemma when they tackle the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals today in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

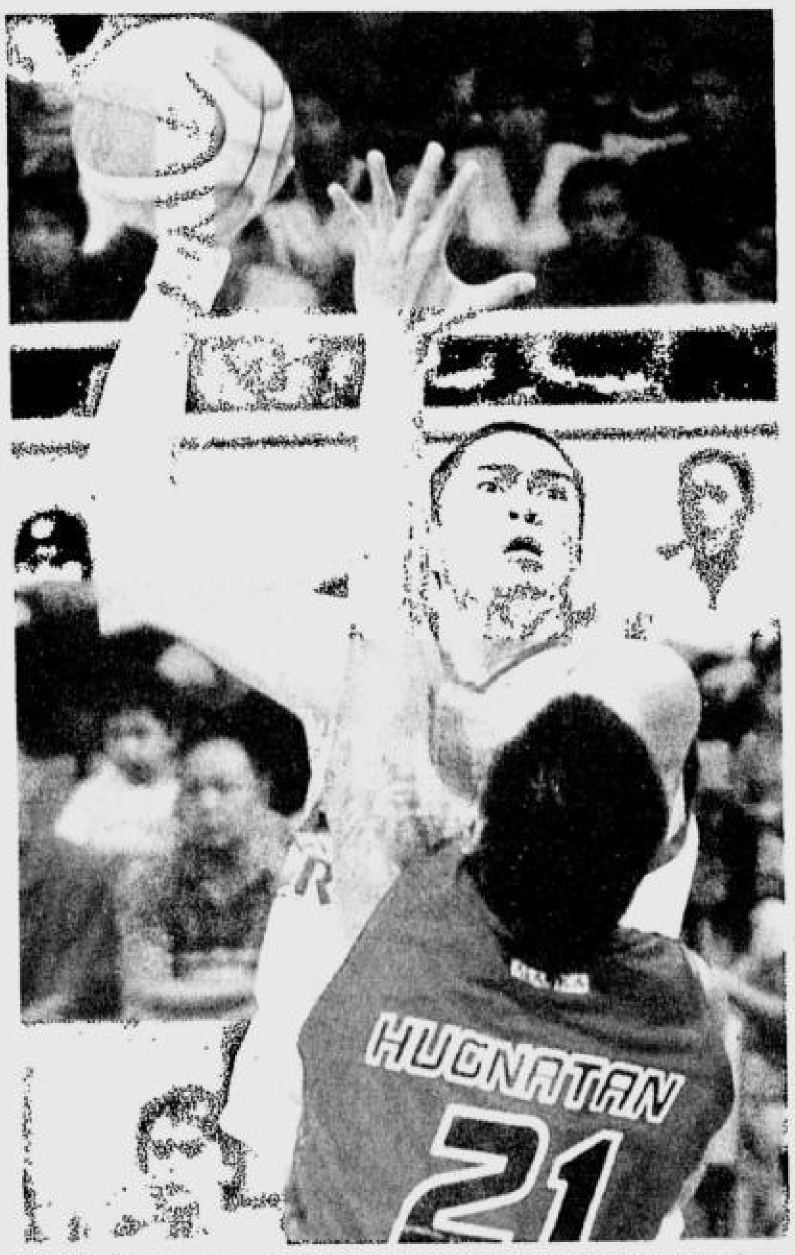
"I'm still confused with the officiating," said Guiao.

In the first game at 4:35 p.m., the in-form Air21 Express take on the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

June Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	5	0
Red Bull	3	1
Talk 'N Text	3	2
Magnolia	3	2
Alaska	3	2
Air21	2	2
Sta. Lucia	1	3
Coca-Cola	1	3
Welcoat	1	4
Ginebra	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Sta. Lucia Realty
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text



WELCOAT'S Jay-R Reyes goes for a semi-hook off Alaska's Reynel Hugnatan in Sunday's game won by the Aces, 73-60. RYAN LIM

RP scores, but can't hold off revamp . . .

From page A25

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad has conferred with team owners, including Hapee team owner and PBL chair Cecilio Pedro, for the likely inclusion of the identified players.

"We might tinker with the schedule so as not to compromise the teams, but it's still subject to the approval of the PBL board," said Trinidad.

The Nationals will play their final PBL game tomorrow before leaving for a Singapore stint on Nov. 10.

"After that we will really finalize our lineup," said Baculi, who tackled his team's plight in an emergency meeting last night with SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan, Harbour Centre owner and SEAG project director Mikee Romero and other key officials.

In the second game, San Mig Coffee hammered out a 79-69 triumph against Mail and More.

The scores:

First Game

RP TEAM 85—Castro 21, Cabahug 14, Belga 11, Cruz 10, Fernandez 6, Dela Cuesta 6, Crisano 5, Alonzo 4, Tan 3, Chan 3, Bautista 2, Salangsang 0.

PHAREX 75—Oreta 16, Co 11, Gerilla 10, Matias 9, Soriano 7, Espiritu 6, Alfad 6, Allera 5, Bulawan 3, Aquino 2, De Guzman 0, Burtscher 0.

Quarters: 24-17, 45-42, 58-53, 85-75

Second Game

SAN MIG COFFEE 79—Magpayo 20, Saldua 15, Custodio 14, Rañeses 10, Del Rosario 8, Dela Peña 5, Bolocon 3, Dalafu 2, Pascual 2, Luanzon 0, Arao 0, Sorongon 0, Angeles 0.

MAIL AND MORE 69—Bravo 13, Baracael 12, Arellano 11, Gregorio 9, Misa 8, Ballesteros 7, Canlas 6, Bauzon 3, Masbang 0, White 0, Bonus 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 46-44, 63-59, 79-69

2007 WPC: Beyond the usual

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE WIELDS HIS JEWELED CUE STICK like a pauper, compared to eminent members of the cast, but the Crown Prince of Brunei was an early winner in the current World Pool Championship.

Prince Muhtadee Billah has lent the tournament the dignity it rightfully deserves, the rise of billiards being traced to regal halls of old Europe.

Well, the great thing about the son of King Bolkiah is that he never tires coming back, although, just like in the past, he could not be expected to move into the money rounds.

So who needs money anyway?

Not the legendary Earl Strickland, who has succeeded in making himself an effigy of American despair with his rueful behavior on the TV camera.

"He's looking down the barrel of a gun," noted the sharp-eyed Bob Guerrero, a mainstay in the WPC broadcast team.

* * *

The way Strickland would bury his face in his palms, groaning like a father who lost a son in an Iraqi suicide bombing, the American cue master appeared like someone who entered a war he cannot win.

Strickland had a tussle with the crowd in falling to the underrated Alan Tan of Malaysia Monday.

He did look like a goner yesterday, committing all conceivable miscues in opening racks against China's Li Hewen. But finally sticking to his game instead of declaiming to the gallery, Strickland streaked from behind to take the match and stay in contention.

* * *

The odd thing is that, with his legend, including a conquest of Django Bustamante in the 2001 WPC finals in Wales, local fans obviously feel Strickland, left with only a precious little in his arsenal, still has got what it takes to be champ again.

Not quite. The best-attended match at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday, between US Open champion Shane Van Boening and Taipei's Yang Mau-wau, presented early the man to beat in the 2007 World Pool series.

"If he doesn't suffer from bad breaks, I see him playing in the final," offered Tony Baranda of the WPC organizing committee.

Jaded pool experts could only agree.

* * *

Van Boening, a steady, unblinking pistolero like his namesake in the US cowboy annals, did figure in trying situations, going dry in two crucial breaks in the homestretch of the match that went hill-hill.

More than his skills, it was his creativity and inventiveness that saved the day for Boening, a pool wonder worker with the knobby forehead and the knowing eyes of a math genius.

This early, there are touts about a possible title clash between Boening and defending WPC champion Ronnie Alcano of the Philippines.

That, you bet, would fill the Big Dome to the rafters the way crowds had spilled out of the Cubao Coliseum during the Thrilla in Manila in 1975.

* * *

In short, there's no need to hype the 2007 series as one that would go beyond the usual.

For one, statuesque Michaela Tabb is back, doubly alluring, as centerpiece referee, a modern-day Venus with her famous poise.

The cast is at its strongest, the format unforgiving.

Based on their initial games, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Django Bustamente, perennial top RP title hopes, will have to surpass their current form to stay in contention until the homestretch.

Well, just like with Strickland and, of course, the Prince of Brunei, Bata and Django may not need the money.

So who badly needs cash?

The tournament itself, of course.

With its magnitude, the World Pool Championship is the closest the Philippines could come closest to hosting an Olympics.

But why is the WPC not getting enough support in the form of commercials?

"Not even one of the two cellphone giants have offered to help," noted Baranda who assured there have been many pledges of support.

"Maybe they have spent everything on Pacquiao," he said.

SPORTSWATCH

RP Int'l Darts Open slated

PREPARATIONS SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR for the holding of the Philippine International Darts Open (Pido) 2007 and the DCP Chairman's Cup from Nov. 16 to 18 at the Events Center of SM City Manila.

The Pido caps the year's major events of the Darts Council of the Philippines while the DCP Chairman's Cup is held in honor of Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.

Titles will be disputed in the classified draw doubles, Open draw doubles and the Open singles for men and women.

"The Pido singles event will give local darters a chance to land in the World Darts Federation rankings," said lawyer Andrew Arrieta, DCP president.

For inquiries, call 0917-8451228, 0917-8161001 or 092-77031435.

Execs chess 7th leg Saturday

THE 7TH LEG OF THE NCFP EXECUTIVES and Professionals Chess Challenge comes off the wraps on Saturday at the Greenhouse Grill on Matalino Street, Quezon City.

The event is sponsored by Cebu sportsman and former Philippine Chess Federation president Matias "Bombi" Aznar.

Winners of the previous legs were NM Sammy Estimo (twice), NM Ed Agagon, FM Efren Bagamasbad, insurance executive Ray Marras and Dr. Jenny Mayor.

NCFP chair and Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, GM Eugene Torre and IM Rudy Tan Cardoso are gracing the event.

For inquiries, call Torre at 0922-8822870, Dr. Mayor (0919-4782209), or lawyer Sammy Estimo (0915-9360354).

'Bakbakan' Round 2 today

THE SECOND ROUND OF ELIMINATIONS in the NFGB National Bakbakan 10-stag derby starts today at the Makati Coliseum.

Last Monday's opening round produced five qualifiers with perfect three wins each: Cyrus Hao and Gengen Arayata (Super Clyde and Yce II), Ric de Guzman (LR Binangonan), Ariel and Fred Petrasanta (AP Calauan Aces), John Capinpin (JCAP 88) and Junjun Salazar (Pac Achievers Jade).

Round three sizzles tomorrow. The "Bakbakan" executive committee has lined up more elimination rounds in other venues like the Pasig Garden on Nov. 9.

UGBA elims on at San Juan

TOPNOTCH MATCHES FEATURING CHAMPIONS from the provinces resume today at San Juan Coliseum via the UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby 2007 with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main supporter.

Seven participants posted three wins each at the start of the Metro Manila eliminations last Monday: Boy Gamilla, Bobby Doromal, Edwin Ramos and Ruel Ricafort, Rep. Conrad Estrella , Louie Zerrudo, Jimmy Zapanta and the Caridad Eagle entry.

United Gamecock Breeders Association president Rene Diaz said the eliminations on Nov. 10, 17, 24 and 26 at SJC are open to other breeders.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Elevenian Queen (5), Buboyski (2), Rock Hard (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Spicy (6), Great Emma (7), Regal Boom (2), Irene's Fantasy (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Mountain Cat (1), War Love (6), He's So Nasty (5), Storm Breaker (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Nitty Gritty (7), Shifty (4), Stream Time (6), Bold Water (5), Selectee (1)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—EJ's Magic (9) Gallant Warrior (1), Sweet Talk (5), Beu Yeux (11), Victory Ranger (2), Golden Lass/Golden Fantasy (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mika's Pride (1), Firehouse (2), Heart of the Wind (7), Mandalay Bay (6), Ambot Sa Imo (8)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Gee (5), Kaligatan (6), Blitzkrieg (10), Madel Line (9), Pabilic Express (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Red Diamond (1), Super Duper (13), Blue Sheikh/Gonfalon Story (2), Given (3), King Aljhun (5), Graceful Conqueror (12)

Tagaytay Highlands ladies sweep 4 matches, lead WGAP Cup

By Jong Arcano

TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CAME OUT SPEWING fire in its WGAP Cup campaign, sweeping its first-round matches on Monday at the Player course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

Maripaz Domingo and Rosalie Heo pulled off a comprehensive 8-and-7 win over an Alabang pair that capped the big show of the Highlands ladies.

The tandems of Dionne Cu-Mely Leyeza, Bern Wong-Jessalyn Tan and Hannah See-Veronica Veloso also won their matches for Highlands.

The Highlanders grabbed the lead with four points in a three-weekend series featuring the top five teams in the recent WGAP Circuit.

The best-ball format was used in the first round for Class B and Class C players. The complete results of the series are available at pilipinasgolf.com, the joint website of Inquirer Golf and Golf Digest Philippines.

Sta. Elena, which edged Tagaytay for the WGAP Circuit overall plum recently, banked on wins by Bea Baluyut-Ymir Oliquino and Tami Leung-Renee Francisco and a draw forged by Marilen Bantug-Surli Walker to stay within striking distance with 2.5 points.

Valley earned two wins, Alabang won one and drew another while Southwoods suffered the ignominy of losing all its first four outings.

The next leg of the series, patterned after the Ryder Cup, on Nov. 13 at The Country Club features Class A and Class B players using the aggregate format of scoring. The final leg at Ayala Greenfields on Nov. 20 will have the Class A and Class C lady parbusters playing alternate shots.

The results:

Alabang 1/Valley 3, Halved; Alabang 2 d. Southwoods 4, 2-up; Highlands 3 d. Alabang 3 8 and 7; Sta. Elena 1 d. Alabang 4, 2 and 1; Highlands 4 d. Sta. Elena 2, 3 and 1; Sta. Elena 3 d. Southwoods 3, 5 and 4; Sta Elena 4/Valley 4 Halved; Highlands 1 d. Valley 2, 4 and 3; Highlands 2 d. Southwoods 3 and 2; Valley 1 d. Southwoods 2, 1-up

Dy, Zulueta lead favorites' march

DEFENDING CHAMPION Denise Dy and second seed Bambi Zoleta led the favorites' march Tuesday in the ladies' singles of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the club's indoor shell courts.

The 18-year-old Dy, a Fil-Am who won the bronze medal in the 2005 Manila SEAG, bested Ivy de Castro, 6-4, 6-2; while Zoleta hacked out a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Julie Em Botor.

Dy will next face Nikki de Dios, a 6-0, 6-4 winner over Carla Ferrer, while Zoleta will tackle Allysa Labay, who routed Hiromi Shimoda, 6-3, 6-2.

Also gaining the second round were third-seeded Czarina Arevalo, No. 4 Ara Micayabas and Michelle Pang.

Arevalo, champion in 2002, 2003 and 2005, won by default over Nikki Manalo, to advance against Shirley Valler, who scored a 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Jasmine Tan Ho.

Micayabas downed Sherry Rose Ong, 7-6 (5), 6-2, while Pang zapped Kitkat Zobel, 6-0, 6-2.

Other results: Aileen Rogan d. Steffi Dizon, 6-3, 6-1; Trudygine Amoranto d. Noriko Yamada, 6-1, 6-3; Bien Zoleta d. Katsumi Fukushima, 6-0, 6-0; Cristina Santos d. Anna Soriano, 6-2, 6-2; Reggie Santiago d. Jennylyn Magpayo 6-0, 6-1; Enah Baba d. Shanine Olivarez, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Allysa Callejo d. Nivea Bezich by default.

Beach tossers sure of medal

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY'VE PITTED THEIR SKILLS AGAINST the world's best with some success.

Filipino beach volleyball bets Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua now believe they are ready to do battle in next month's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

And the Fil-Am belles—fresh from creditable stints in the World Tour—swore they've got what it takes to win the gold medal.

The United States-based tandem were guests in yesterday's PSA Forum, where they discussed their chances of finally toppling the defending champion Thais in the Dec. 6-16 SEAG.

"We are ranked higher than the Thai pair now because they haven't competed much in the World Tour," said Pascua. "But for sure, we will win a medal in the SEA Games. Our level of play is much higher now."

READY FOR GOLD? Pascua (left) and Ilustre

The RP pair competed in 14 legs of the World Tour, with eight of their best stints counting towards the provisional Olympic rankings.

They have already amassed 794 points and about $20,000 in prize money. Of the 14 legs they vied in, the pair made it to the main draw six times. They will compete in eight more legs of the 2008 Tour in hopes of amassing enough points to qualify for the Olympics.

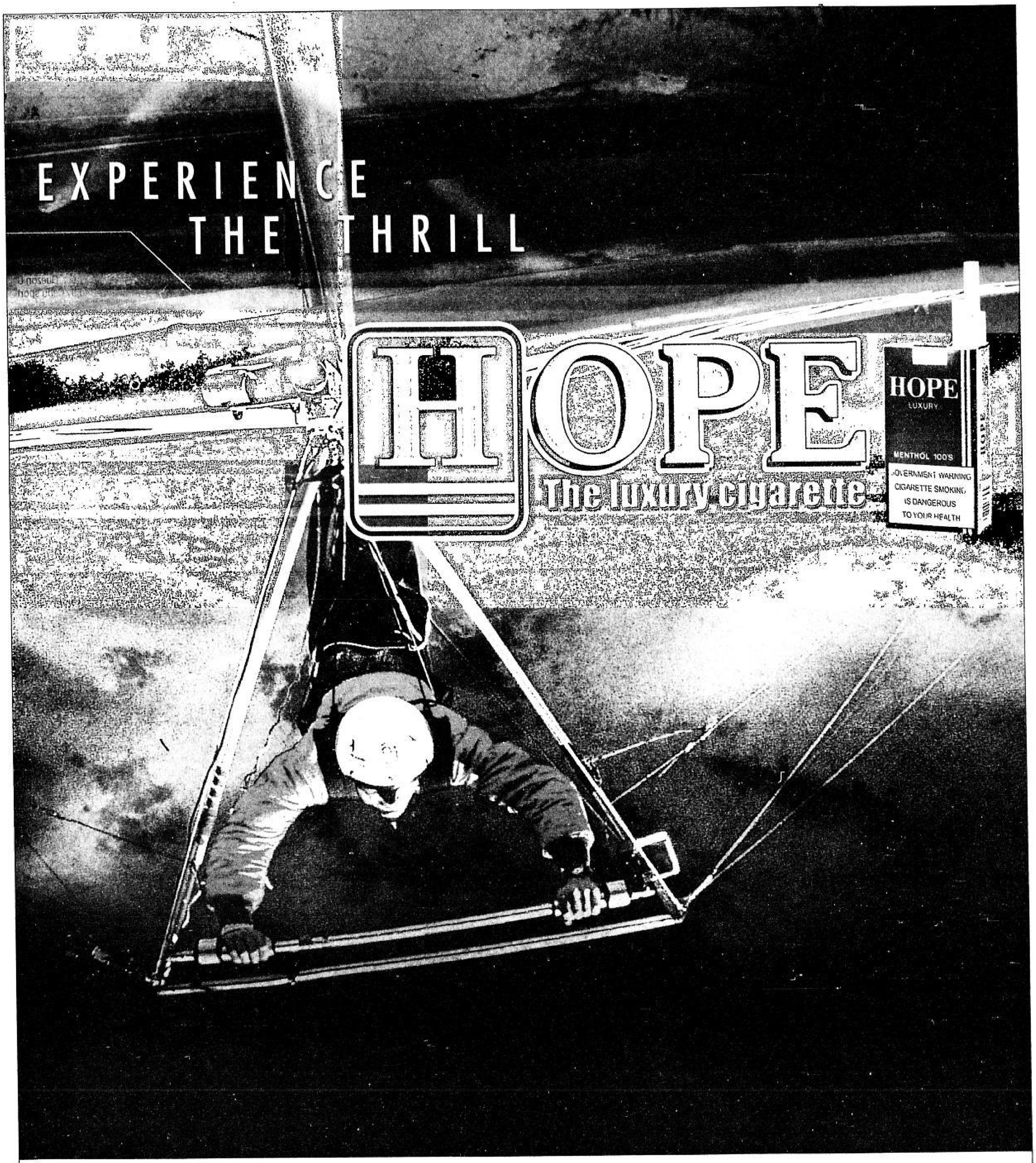
Ilustre and Pascua are now convinced that their World Tour stints have equipped them with skills to wrest the SEAG crown.

"We're better prepared this time than in 2005," said Pascua. "We've seen the Thais. And we have a better game plan now. If we do all the right things, we can beat them."

The 2005 SEAG was the pair's first beach volley tournament together. They ended up winning the bronze, finishing behind two Thai pairs.

The Ilustre-Pascua combine now ranks No. 41 in the world. But since several countries have more than two pairs in the provisional Olympic list, the Philippines ranks in 30th spot. Only the top 24 in the world can play in Beijing.

After a Hong Kong Challenger event next week, Ilustre and Pascua will fly to the SEAG before resuming their World Tour campaign in March.



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SPORTS

Dodgers officially welcome Torre

LOS ANGELES—PAYING TRIBUTE TO ONE of Major League Baseball's most successful franchises, Joe Torre was front and center for his introduction as the new manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

His news conference on Monday was held in centerfield at Dodger Stadium to accommodate the overload of media, a first according to team spokesman Josh Rawitch.

Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully began the news conference attended by team owners Frank and Jamie McCourt and general manager Ned Colletti.

"Wow! This has been wild here. The last two weeks have been a whirlwind for my wife Ali and me," Torre said. "You say goodbye to one prestigious organization and you say hello to another prestigious organization."

Torre walked onto the fog-shrouded field arm-in-arm with his wife Ali. They took seats on a stage with their backs to the multitiered seating section.

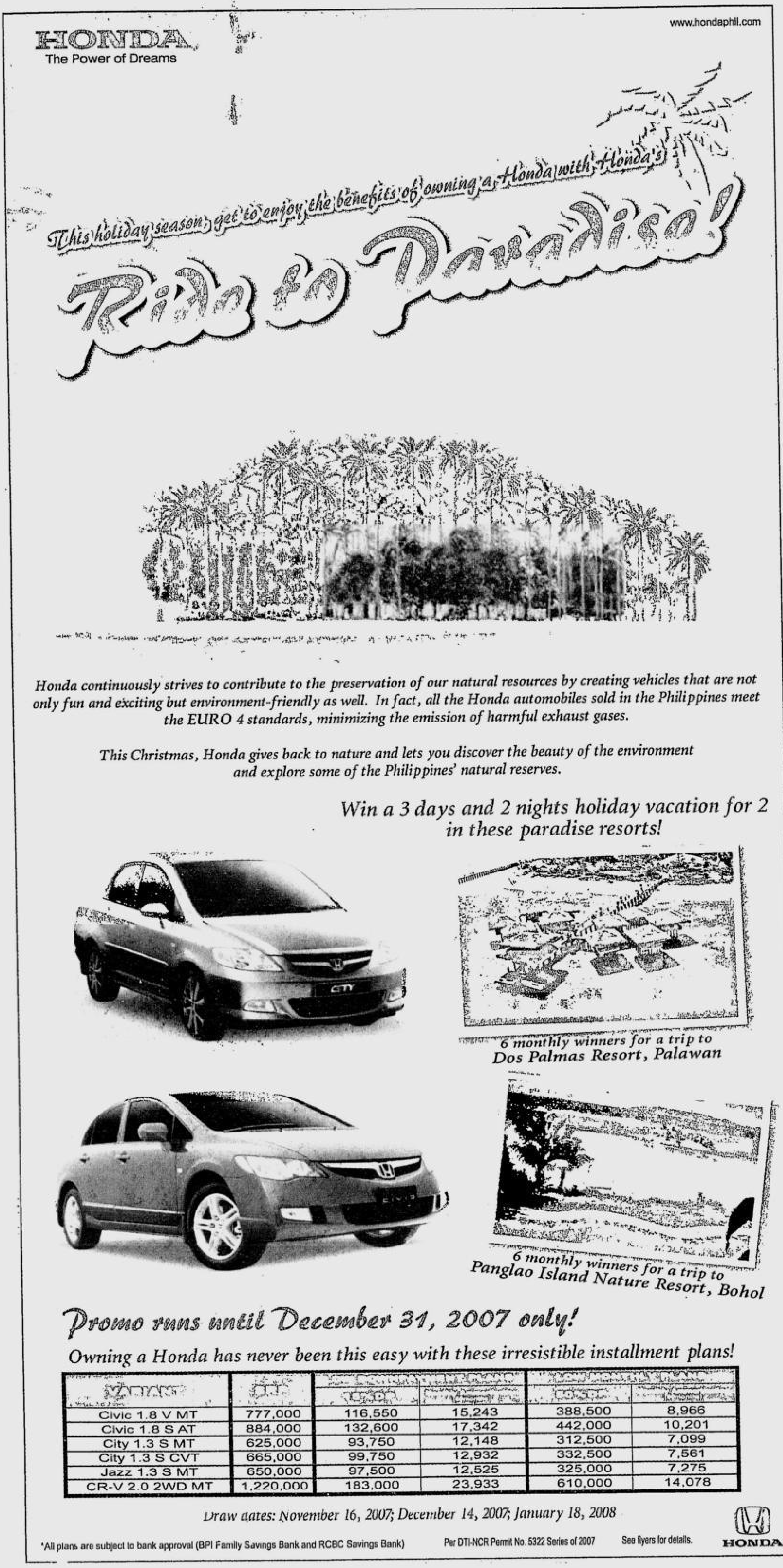
Torre left the New York Yankees after 12 seasons and four World Series titles. He follows Casey Stengel in becoming the second person to manage both storied franchises. Stengel led the Brooklyn Dodgers to losing records from 1934-36, moved over to the Boston Braves, then guided the Yankees to seven Series titles from 1949-60.

The 67-year-old Torre replaced Grady Little, who quit last week, and takes over an underperforming team that hasn't won the Series since 1988. The Dodgers finished fourth in the National League West last season at 82-80.

Torre, who grew up in Brooklyn cheering for the New York Giants, guided the Yankees to postseason appearances in all 12 of his seasons. He left when the Yankees offered him a $5 million, one-year contract with $3 million in performance bonuses that Torre termed "an insult." He made $7.5 million this season, the last of a $19.2 million, three-year agreement.

Exactly two weeks after he left the Yankees, Torre agreed to a $13 million, three-year deal with the Dodgers.

AP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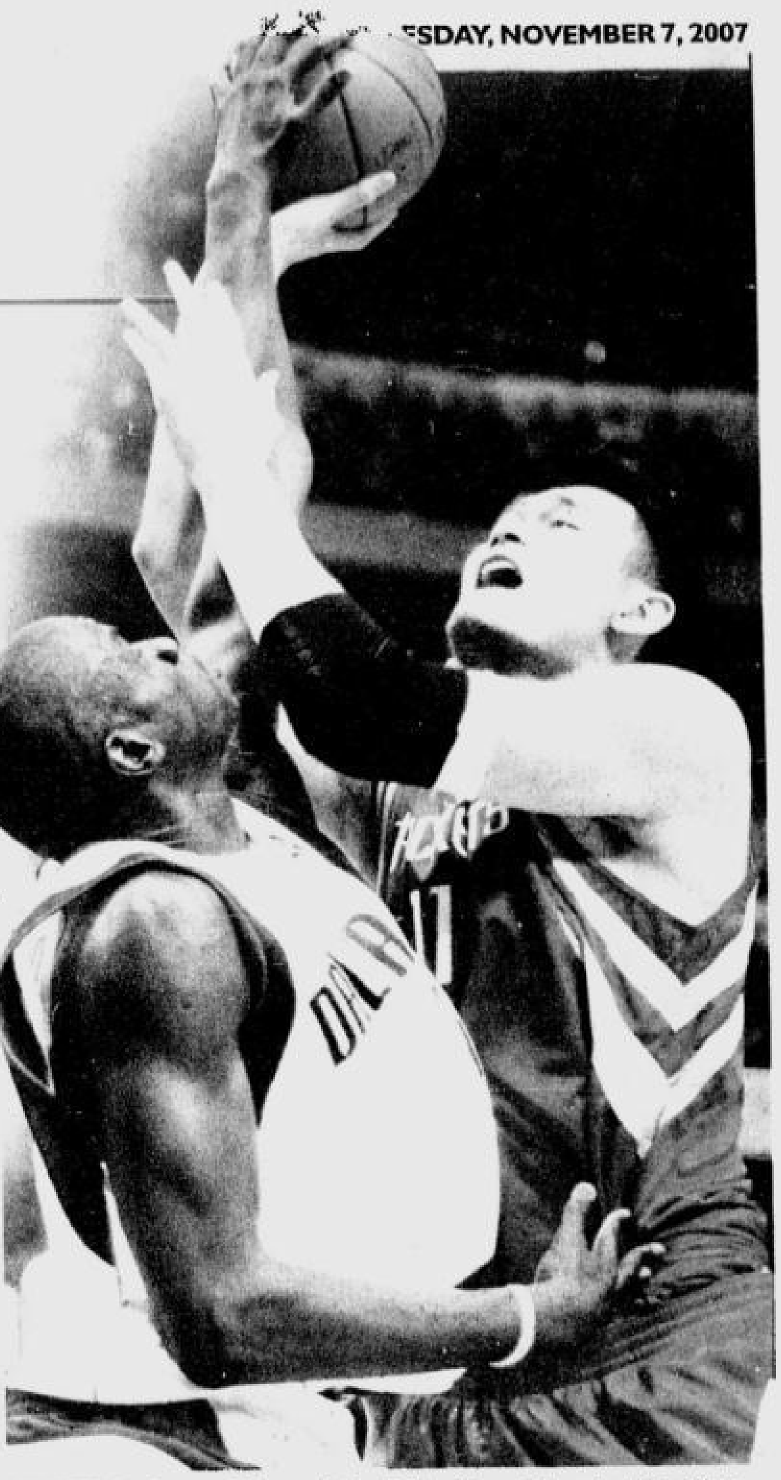
City 1.3 S CVT	665,000	99,750	12,932	332,500	7,561
Jazz 1.3 S MT	650,000	97,500	12,525	325,000	7,275
CR-V 2.0 2WD MT	1,220,000	183,000	23,933	610,000	14,078

Draw dates: November 16, 2007; December 14, 2007; January 18, 2008

*All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI Family Savings Bank and RCBC Savings Bank) Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5322 Series of 2007 See flyers for details.

HONDA



CENTER DeSagana Diop and the Dallas Mavericks reject Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets' bid to stretch their winning run. AP

Mavericks ground Rockets

DALLAS—THE DALLAS MAVERICKS BATTLED past the previously unbeaten Houston Rockets, 107-98, in Monday's only scheduled NBA game, Jason Terry coming off the bench to inspire the victory with 31 points.

The guard scored 16 of the Mavericks's final 37 points as Dallas ground out the victory missing an injured Devin Harris and with Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard both in foul trouble.

"Obviously without those guys, I have to be more aggressive and assertive with taking my shots and looking for openings," Terry, who was 11-of-17 from the floor, told reporters.

"We were getting turnovers, getting stops, and that allowed me to get out on the break and create some early offense," he added.

Houston (3-1) led 75-70 late in the third quarter before Terry went on a run of 10 consecutive points.

His three-pointer followed by two jumpers in the closing minute gave Dallas a 77-75 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Terry then hit another three-pointer to start the final frame before Houston rallied to regain the lead, going 88-86 up on a pair of Tracy McGrady free throws with a little over six minutes remaining.

Howard then scored five straight points to give Dallas a 91-88 lead and the Mavericks stayed ahead for good.

Howard finished with 21 points and Nowitzki had 19, but was only 7-of-20 from the field.

Jerry Stackhouse added 16 points and DeSagana Diop contributed 10 points, 13 rebounds and four blocked shots for the Mavericks (3-1).

The Rockets got 35 points from McGrady and 21 points and 11 rebounds from Yao Ming.

"McGrady and Yao are tough," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said. "There's no real trick defenses. You just got to work as hard as you can and hope they miss some shots."

Reuters

GAMES TODAY
(*Solar Sports*)
9:30 a.m.—LA Clippers vs. Chicago
(replay at 9 p.m.)

Valdez blows bid in World Cup

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA—The Philippines' bid for another Bowling World Cup title ended Monday when former Asian champion Paulo Valdez fell by the wayside after 12 games at the Kontinent Bowling Centre here.

Valdez finished with a total of 2433 pinfalls, including his first six-game tally of 1281, for a 202.75 average and landed in 35th place.

Only the top 24 bowlers, based on their 12-game series, remain in contention in the 43rd QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup.

Liza del Rosario, failed to advance after the first six-game block of the ladies' competition when she managed to score only 1119 and limped out in 38th spot.

The top qualifiers:

Ladies—Tina Hulsch, Germany, 2565; Hein Johnsson, Sweden, 2561; Rebecca Veloz, Mexico, 2561; Lynda Barnes, USA, 2537; Ghislaine van del Tol, Netherlands, 2534; Melody Yeung, HK, 2528 and Sharon Koh, Malaysia, 2516.

Men—Ildemario Ruiz, Venezuela, 2685; Glenn-Morten Pedersen, Norway, 2650; Andres Gomez, Colombia, 2648; Peter Ljung, Sweden, 2621; Paulo Lopes, Portugal, 2591; Yahav Rabin, Israel, 2598; Thomas Gross, Austria, 2580 and Remy Ong, Singapore, 2570.

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October inflation stays at benign 2.7%

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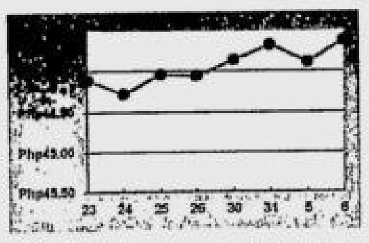


OCTOBER NOVEMBER

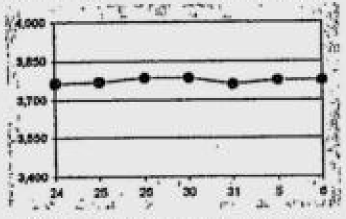
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.61 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 6, 2007

¥114.60 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 6, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares end flat on oil, subprime woes



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED yesterday as concerns over the US subprime crisis and rising oil prices offset buying in companies likely to report strong quarterly earnings.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index dropped 1.18 points, or 0.03 percent, to 3,773.63. It rose 0.4 percent Monday.

"We can characterize (yesterday's) session as a tug-of-war between bargain hunters and profit-takers," said Astro del Castillo, managing director of First Grade Holdings.

"It seems the market will continue to consolidate given a lack of strong market-moving news and worries overseas," he said.

Top traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained 1.9

STOCKS/ B4

Strong peso, ample rice supply temper price increase

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES WAS kept at an average 2.7 percent in October as the stronger-than-expected peso and abundant supply of rice helped temper inflationary pressures, authorities said.

The inflation rate for October was the same as that of the previous month, and brought the 10-month average to 2.6 percent, still more benign than the official target of between 4 and 5 percent. The latest inflation rate was also lower than the 5.4 percent recorded in October last year.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of selected food and energy items, stood at 2.4 percent in October, slowing down from the 2.7 percent recorded in September. Average core inflation for January to October stood at 2.8 percent.

"Price pressures from major food, non-food and fuel items were broadly mitigated by the peso appreciation. Lower rice prices also cushioned inflation with the onset of the harvest season and import arrivals," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters.

He added that some producers chose to maintain prices to protect their market share.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that most commodity groups kept the pace of increase they posted in September.

The October inflation rates for various commodity groups were: 3.5 percent for food, beverage and tobacco; 1.2 percent for housing and repair; 1.9 percent for clothing; 1 percent for fuel, light and water; 3.5 percent for services, and 1.4 percent for miscellaneous items.

The NSO said inflation for

OCTOBER/ B2

BSP moves to help exporters cope with appreciating peso

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS lined up new measures to help exporters cope with the adverse impact of a strong peso, including initiatives to boost access to bank loans.

"There are moves to establish lending programs that develop banks' tie-ups with industrial associations such as Philexport (Philippine Confederation of Exporters) and the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines to facilitate identification of good borrowers eligible for easier credit access," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

By reducing the cost of borrowing, the BSP believes that exporters, including small and medium enterprises, could boost

BSP MOVES/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Five groups** remain in race for PNOC-EDC stake /B2

■ **Delinquent** taxpayers urged to avail of amnesty /B10

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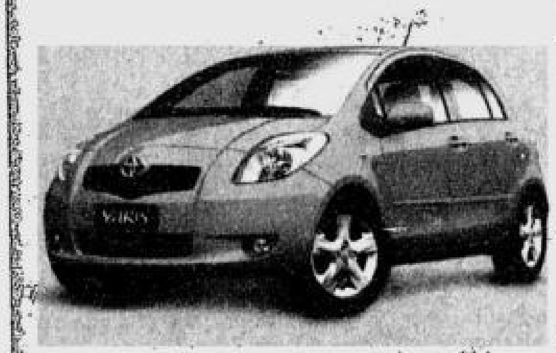
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Five groups remain in race for PNOC-EDC stake

Marubeni, Sumitomo drop out of bidding; others form tie-ups

By Abigail L. Ho

FROM 14 PREQUALIFIED ENTITIES, only five groups are now vying for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a statement issued yesterday, Philippine National Oil Co. president and Privatization Committee chair Antonio Cailao said the five groups included ACR-AEI Holdings Inc., FDC Geo-Energy Holdings Inc., AP Renewables, Red Vulcan Holdings Corp. and Panasia Energy Holdings Inc.

These groups were composed of entities from the original slate of 14 that the Privacom had initially prequalified. Those that made the initial cut were then given a chance to submit final qualification documents, either as individual bidders or as groups.

ACR-AEI Holdings is a joint venture between Alsons Consolidated Resources and AEI Investments Inc.; FDC Geo-Energy, a partnership between Filinvest Development Corp. and International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc.; Red Vulcan, a consortium composed of First Gen Corp., Spalmare Holdings BV and Prime Terracota Holdings Corp.; Panasia Energy, a partnership between San Miguel Energy Corp. and Beleggingsmaatchappij Broem BV; and AP Renewables, an Aboitiz Power Corp. company.

"We have a very impressive final lineup. We really expected a realignment of forces among those whom we earlier prequalified," Cailao said.

"We are very excited about these developments because the companies with the energy expertise have formed alliances with companies who not only have financial wherewithal but also have extensive experience in the energy industry. This potent combination means PNOC is dealing with the most competent groups," he added.

The five final prequalified entities have until 9 a.m. on Nov. 21 to submit their bids for a controlling stake in PNOC-EDC. The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of 100 percent of the bid price to be remitted by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.

"I cannot but again stress that PNOC is fully committed to 100-percent transparency in every stage of this bidding. Our PNOC Privatization Committee as well as the board of directors are heavily involved throughout to ensure a level playing field and so that the national government will get the best deal out of this," Cailao said.

Those that dropped out of the race prior to the final cut included One Energy Ltd., Marubeni Corp., Sumitomo Corp. and Basic Energy Corp.

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Gov't says nuclear power not a priority

THE OPTION TO VENTURE INTO nuclear power generation will serve as the government's last resort, in case no new additional capacity comes in before the 2010-2011 critical period in Luzon.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Department of Energy would exhaust all means possible to get the necessary new capacity to prevent a power shortfall in the next three to four years.

Focus would be on indigenous and renewable power sources, although the nuclear power option would always remain open, he said.

Right now, he said what was important was to ensure that the country would gradually become less dependent on imported fuel sources such as coal and oil, considering the volatility of the prices of these products in the world market.

"My stand has been clear from the start. We want a balanced energy mix because what we want is independence and sustainability in energy. We want to accelerate that because of the volatility of imported fuel sources like oil and coal, which is causing us a lot of problems," he explained.

"We have to shift to indigenous and renewable sources of energy. We will exhaust all possible means in that direction. But we will have to compute (the needed additional capacity) because, right now, if we don't have enough capacity, we will be experiencing shortages in three to four years," he added.

By next week, he said the DOE would be submitting to Malacañang its recommendations on how much new capacity would be needed in the coming years and exactly what energy sources should be tapped to achieve a capacity level that would be enough to meet projected demand.

Nuclear power would continue to be one of the options to be considered, he said, although the pros and cons of tapping such an energy source would have to be considered.

"Nuclear has advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is it is a very stable source of baseload power, plus quality and quantity over a long period. The disadvantage is the presence of nuclear waste and the aversion of the people to nuclear energy. This is something we have to look into, but we have to keep our options open," he said.

Korean government-run Korea Electric Power Corp. is currently in "unofficial" talks with the Philippine government regarding the possible refiring of the mothballed 620-megawatt (MW) Bataan Nuclear Power Plant or the establishment of a new nuclear power facility.

Kepco Asia business department director general Kyong-Goo Hur said in an earlier interview that the company had expressed interest to develop a nuclear power facility in the Philippines as early as several years ago.

Talks with the Philippine government, however, were all "unofficial" at this point, he said. *Abigail L. Ho*

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October inflation stays at benign 2.7%

From page B1

food alone rose to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent.

Tetangco said the BSP was expecting inflation for the entire year to average at 2.6 to 3.1 percent, while that for 2008 would be between 3 and 4 percent. The 2008 inflation forecast was within the official target of 3 to 5 percent.

Tetangco Jr. said price movements since August confirmed the central bank's outlook of a sustained benign inflation.

Economic managers were one in saying that the recent spike in world oil prices was not yet enough to cause a breaching of the official inflation targets largely because of the strengthening of the peso.

Victor Abola, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific, also said that inflation was likely to remain benign next year. He sees inflation averaging at 3.5-3.6 percent in 2008, already taking into account the effect of higher oil prices.

According to his estimates, inflation increases by 0.4 percent for every 10-percent increase in the price of oil. Abola said that from January to October, the year-on-year increase in oil prices has not yet reached double-digit levels, although it was likely to settle at 10 percent by December.

Abola said oil price increase could hit 10-15 percent next year. This would translate to about 0.6-percent increase in consumer prices, he added.

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Activities	Date/Time
a. Publication of Invitation to Bid	November 7 & 8, 2007
b. Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	November 19-23, 2007
c. Pre-bid Conference	November 27, 2007, 2:00 PM
d. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	November 29, 2007, 2:00 PM

5. The sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the Asset Management Disposition Group, 4th Floor Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
7. The award of the sale covering the property shall be based on the offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.

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VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT AND
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(PDI–November 7 & 8, 2007)

Palace pushes bill to exempt BIR, BOC workers from salary standardization

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo will certify as urgent the bill exempting employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs from the Salary Standardization law.

This was according to Rep. Danilo Suarez of the third district of Quezon, who said the President the other day had made a commitment to push for the immediate passage of the bill.

Suarez, author of the bill, said the legislative proposal was necessary to professionalize the BIR and the BOC and reduce the incidence of corruption.

Under House Bill No. 1701, a percentage of the two agencies' annual revenue collection targets will be allotted for their respective budgets. Suarez said the percentage rate would be stated in the implementing rules and regulations. At the moment, he said, the preferred rate is 3 percent.

Based on this formula, the BIR's budget for 2008 should be P25 billion, since its revenue collection target for next year was set at 845 billion. The proposed BIR budget for next year, as stated under HB 1701, will be much higher than the P5 billion set under the proposed national budget for 2008.

Suarez said the increase in the budget for the BIR and the BOC should be used to increase the salaries of their workers, and grant them additional benefits. The higher budget should also help improve the BIR's capacity to collect taxes.

The BIR has over 11,000 employees, while the BOC has over 4,000.

If passed, the measure will effectively remove the BIR and the BOC from the coverage of the Salary Standardization law, or Republic Act No. 6758, which imposes uniform salaries for employees of the same rank in all government agencies.

Suarez said that, with the current salaries at the BIR and the BOC, some employees tend to take their work less seriously.

"If they get decent salaries, then employees of the BIR and the BOC will be encouraged to improve their collection performance and meet their targets," Suarez told reporters yesterday.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves earlier echoed suggestions to rationalize the organizations of the BIR and the BOC, and to raise salaries of their employees. He said doing so would help boost government efforts to generate more revenue.

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Siblings Go Against Odds with the Help of Technology

The constant support and encouragement of parents, education from the country's best schools, all the books and educational resources easily bought when needed and a comfortable environment conducive to learning and personal enrichment - these are some of the things enjoyed by young achievers. But what if things were different?

Imagine going through life without the guidance of a father and the love and care of a mother. Growing up wasn't really easy for two brothers who lost their father at a young age and were abandoned by their mother, but somehow Ged and Kelvin Tatoy managed to make the most out of what they have, even succeeding in the things they do at their young age.

"Matiyaga yang magkapatid na yan at hindi nila naging rason yung wala silang mga magulang para hindi nila pagbutihin yung mga ginagawa nila, lalo na sa school," (The two brothers are very hardworking and they didn't use the fact that they were orphaned as a reason not to succeed in what they do, especially in school) said yaya Lilet, Ged and Kelvin's aunt and one of their guardians.

Yaya Lilet is not just any other nanny. She has been the long-time nanny of veteran actress and TV host, Janice de Belen, who is among the four celebrities involved in the Microsoft-led campaign dubbed as "Stars for Empowerment". For the campaign, Janice, along with Rico Blanco, Epy Quizon and Liezel Martinez, were asked to identify deserving beneficiaries nationwide whose passions can be empowered by Windows Vista. "Stars for Empowerment," aimed to show how Microsoft enables people to live out their passions through Windows Vista - be it in music, family, gadgets, or work.

On February of this year, Ged and Kelvin were given the best gift that will help them succeed in their studies. Without thinking twice, Janice remembered her yaya Lilet's nephews in Antique who have gone through so much, and deserved something good for rising above the challenges they've faced at an early age. "A Vista laptop will definitely help Ged and Kelvin to do even better in their studies. They're already very hardworking, so just imagine the things they could achieve with the help of technology," enthused Janice.

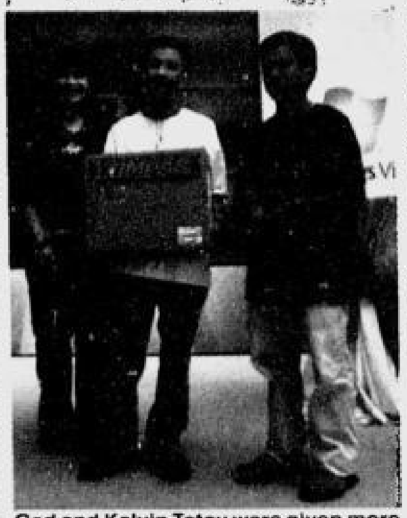
Windows Vista is designed to enhance personal and professional activities, in the home, school or workplace. The Instant Search allows faster location of data regardless of file type. With the new Internet Explorer 7, information can be easily used, gathered and shared. The additional features of Windows Vista were optimised to help individuals organize information and files efficiently, allowing them to be more productive in their activities.

Ged said, *"Nung nabigyan kami ng laptop ni Ms. Janice, mahigit pa sa tuwa yung naramdaman namin. Malaki kasi yung natutulong nito sa pag-aaral namin ngayon sa kolehiyo. Dati inaabot pa kami ng gabi sa Internet Café, ngayon sa bahay na namin ginagawa yung pagreresearch at pagtype,"* (When we were given a laptop by Ms. Janice, we felt more than happy. It's a great help for us in our college studies. We used to stay out late in the nearby Internet Café, but now, we do our research and typing at home).

"Matagal pa naming gagamitin itong laptop na ito, kahit hanggang nagtatrabaho na kami ni Ged, sobrang laki parin ang tulong nito. Bago pa man kami mabigyan ng laptop, marami na kaming pangarap, pero ngayon, meron na kaming tulong sa pagabot sa mga pangarap namin," (This laptop will still be of great use to us even when we're already working. Even before we were given a laptop, we already had many dreams, but now, we have a very helpful tool in achieving those dreams) added Kelvin.

The new products and technologies of Microsoft were developed in a way that it enhances human skill. It provides individuals and organizations the tools needed to achieve better results, faster.

Microsoft Philippines' Consumer Marketing Manager, Ivan Franco, shared, "With the Stars for Empowerment campaign, we would like to consider what we're giving, not just as a laptop with our software, rather, we are providing deserving people, such as Ged and Kelvin, a key to reaching their full potential. It's really more than the software - it's the possibilities and opportunities that come along with the software that matter most."


Ged and Kelvin Tatoy were given more than just a laptop, they were offered a tool that will empower them as students and provide them with better opportunities to achieve their full potential.

The Tatoy brothers continue to strive and make the most of what they have right now. Despite the hardships they went through at their young age, they are determined to win against the odds and are optimistic that theirs is a future filled with possibilities.

# # # # #

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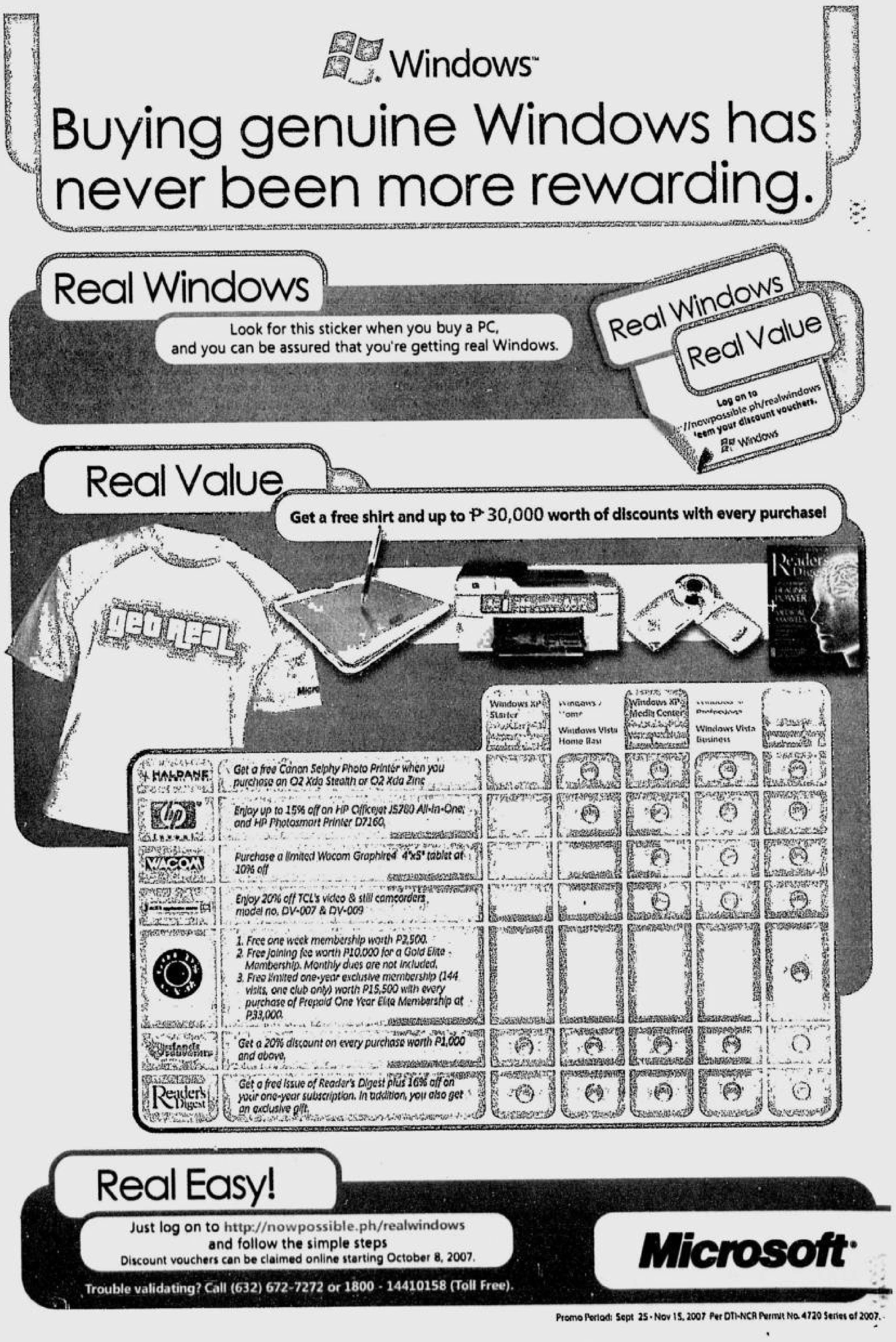
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Ayala group's IMI, Zesto vying for Asean awards

Firms in running for title of 'most admired enterprises'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWO LOCAL FIRMS MADE IT to the list of 12 finalists vying for four prizes in the first Asean Business Awards (ABA), winners of which would be announced during the Asean Business Investment Summit on Nov. 18.

According to the Asean Business Advisory Council, which launched the ABA last April in commemoration of the association's 40th founding anniversary, Integrated Microelectronics Inc. and Zesto Corp. were picked from among 63 nominees.

To qualify, finalists needed to be incorporated within the region and must have at least 40 percent Asean equity; operating for at least five years and in at least two Asean countries; earning at least $20 million a year or owning fixed assets of at least $5 million or employing at least 150 workers.

IMI and Zesto are in the running for the "Most Admired Asean Enterprises" award in "employment" and "innovation" categories, respectively.

Two other categories—growth and corporate social responsibility—have three finalists each.

IMI is contesting the award with Singapore's CapitaLand Ltd. and Vietnam's Asia Commercial Joint Stock Bank while Zesto's rivals are Singapore's Great Eastern Holdings Ltd. and Vietnam's Hoatho Textile-Garment Joint Stock Co.

The six other finalists are Malaysia's Nationgate Technology (M) Sbn Bhd, Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., and Vietnam's Saigon Paper Corp. for the growth category; and Indonesia's PT Kalbe Farma TBK, Malaysia's Johor Specialist Hospital Sbn Bhd, and Singapore's Banyan Tree Holdings Pte Ltd. for the CSR category.

J.Y. (Joseph Yuvayaj) Pillay of Singapore, chair of the nine-member panel of judges, said in a statement the body was "encouraged that this inaugural effort has stimulated quite widespread interest, and yielded an interesting and diverse selection of candidates."

Sergio Luis-Ortiz Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, represents the Philippines in the panel.

"Some of the national business federations diligently sought out eminent companies (to nominate, but) others may be expected to be equally successful hereafter," said Pillay, who is also chair of the Singapore Exchange.

He explained that in setting the judging criteria, the panel looked at the rise in revenue and in profit, as well as certain qualitative measures to assess whether the growth could be sustained, especially in the growth award categories.

As for the employment category, Pillay said it was not just numbers that were considered.

"We looked at their human resource practices as well, so it was equally qualitative," he added.

For innovation, the judging panel looked at expenditure on research and development, but not just in absolute terms.

"It was set relative to revenue and in the context of the industry because in some industries, R&D is the lifeblood of the company, while in other industries, R&D per se may not be all that important," he explained.

Low Sin Leng, chair of the ABA committee, said the awards sought to showcase the promising and most outstanding Asean companies.

"We want to encourage these Asean businesses to do more intra-business and trade, to help further integrate our Asean economies," she said.

GSIS: Pitfalls of investing abroad

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

REACTING TO MY COLUMN OF Oct. 17, GSIS vice president Ella Valencerina wrote: "The $1-billion Global Investment Program (GIP) the GSIS intends to pursue with the assistance of global fund managers is intended to further equip the GSIS with the wherewithal to meet the future claims and benefits of its members.

"As presently constituted, the Philippine capital market is still too limited in terms of the number of investment instruments available, the magnitude of funds that the domestic market can absorb, and the returns that can be obtained from local investments. Thus, there is a pressing need for the GSIS to seek opportunities elsewhere.

"The global fund managers vying for the $1-billion mandate involve some of the world's finest and most respected investment companies. They are the recognized experts in their fields. It is only fitting that investments of this magnitude will be handled by someone who knows the ins and outs of the business, especially in the international arena. However, the GSIS is not handing the reins to them completely. The GSIS has set a requirement of an annual 8-percent floor on return on investments (net of fees) and a ceiling of 7 percent on the portfolio volatility for the global fund managers that will be awarded the mandate."

Well and good. But Valencerina does not explain how the GSIS and the eventual fund manager will guard against the exchange risk inherent in any dollar denominated investment. Every time the peso strengthens and/or the dollar weakens, the equation changes.

For example, if the GIP is installed at the time when the exchange rate is P44 to $1, and, when the 8 percent earning comes in, the exchange rate is P43 to $1, the poor government employee loses P1 for every dollar earned.

Of course, if, instead, the exchange rate is P45 to $1, the employee gains P1 for every dollar earned. But, it looks like this is unlikely to happen, as our overseas workers keep sending home more and more dollars to meet rising local consumer prices.

To avoid the exchange risk, the GSIS may want to consider keeping their investments in pesos.

The life insurance companies can guarantee earnings of 8 percent plus one-half of anything earned in excess of 8 percent. The trust departments of the banks may even cut a better deal.

At this point, it is well to look into the basic reasons why the GSIS exists in the first place. By law, every government employee (except the police and the military) is a member of the GSIS. He pays 9 percent of his salary (compulsorily, mind you) into the system.

The government employer pays (also compulsorily) a counterpart of 12 percent of salary, or 57 percent of contributions. Because of this, every taxpayer has a stake at the GSIS. Perhaps, we taxpayers should assume a more militant attitude on how the GSIS is managed.

The funds collected, a whopping 21 percent of salary, less 12 percent for administration and operations, plus the earnings, are held by GSIS in trust—let me repeat that, in trust—for and in behalf of the members, almost half of whom are minimum wage earners, the poorest of our employed poor.

By law again, the funds, plus the earnings, are guaranteed to be returned eventually to the employees in the form of death, disability and pension benefits.

As a result, the managers at the GSIS have the awesome responsibility of taking good care of the funds. They should not fool around with the money. That is their mandate.

ICTSI takes over Georgia's Batumi terminal

By Riza T. Olchondra

LISTED PORT OPERATOR INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) officially took over operations at the Port of Batumi in Georgia through subsidiary Batumi International Container Terminal LLC (BICTL), the parent company said in a statement yesterday.

The day also marked the servicing of BICTL's first ferry vessel, "MV Geroite Na Sevastopol," which docked at Berth 6.

The vessel contained seven import railwagons, 26 various types of cargo loaded trucks, two TEU containers and 27 passengers.

The vessel loaded 12 trucks, three passenger cars and eight passengers.

ICTSI Ltd.'s wholly owned subsidiary, ICTSI Georgia Corp., obtained the port concession from Batumi Port Holdings Ltd., which has the exclusive management rights over the state-owned shares in Batumi Sea Port Limited (BSP).

ICTSI Georgia Corp. formed BICTL to operate the concession, and to be the exclusive operator in the Port of Batumi in Georgia.

BSP granted a 48-year lease to BICTL to operate a total area of 13.6 hectares of the Port of Batumi, which includes Berth 4 & 5 for the container terminal, Berth 6 for the ferry terminal and for dry bulk general cargo.

BICTL will pay an annual rent of $0.60 a square meter for the first 18 months, increasing to $5.50 a square meter thereafter.

BSP and BICTL have outlined their preliminary upgrade activities required to strengthen Berths 4 & 5 for the installation quay cranes, and to refurbish the two portal cranes in Berth 6 as part of the investment requirement for the Port of Batumi.

BICTL is also looking at the possibility of handling container vessels using mobile harbor cranes as well as roll on-roll off vessels.

The Port of Batumi is considered one of the main transportation trade points in the Black Sea.

Headquartered in the Philippines, ICTSI is positioning itself as one the world's leading players in international container terminal operations.

Its flagship port is in Manila's south harbor and it also operates ports in Japan, Indonesia, Poland, Brazil, Syria, Madagascar and China.

Foreign operations accounted for 60 percent of the port operator's P1.8-billion net income for 2006, compared with 34 percent of the P1.34-billion profit in 2005.

Just last March, ICTSI won a 20-year port contract in Ecuador from the Guayaquil Port Authority.

The Guayaquil port handles containerized, general and bulk cargo and is on the west coast of the South American continent.

ICTSI chair and president Enrique Razon Jr. earlier said ICTSI would venture further into Latin America and then India as part of its aggressive international expansion program.

Greenpeace warns public on dangers of GMO rice

By Amy R. Remo

ENVIRONMENT GROUP GREENPEACE yesterday warned the public of an impending "economic and ecological disaster" if genetically modified rice becomes available commercially.

In a statement, Greenpeace said that economic costs associated with the contamination of US rice stocks sold in the global market are "staggering, with losses expected to exceed $1.2 billion."

According to Greenpeace, the contamination reportedly "arose from experimental field trials of LL601 in the US which ended in 2001."

Bayer's LL601 is rice genetically altered to survive the powerful herbicide glufosinate.

However, traces of the Bayer LL601 were discovered in US rice supplies last year, the group said.

At least 30 countries were affected by this contamination while many closed their markets to US rice, including major importers such as the European Union and the Philippines, Greenpeace added.

Despite the closure, Greenpeace said that the Uncle Sam Texas long grain rice being sold in Philippine supermarkets was reportedly contaminated by this "illegal, unauthorized and unapproved GMO rice variety."

Greenpeace said this discovery had prompted the National Food Authority to demand GMO-free certification from US rice traders and halt US imports worth $20 million.

"Filipinos have been exposed to the inherent risks of this genetically altered rice without knowing it," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia Genetic Engineering campaigner for Philippines Daniel Ocampo.

He added that aside from inherent risks to human health and the environment, "GMO crops could also ruin the agriculture exports and economy of a country like the US."

"Asia should focus on other means of developing rice varieties," Ocampo said.

Greenpeace had filed a petition earlier this year against the use of Bayer's GMO Liberty Link Rice 62 for food, animal feed and processing.

Oil drilling in Visayas to start this month

By Abigail L. Ho

JAPAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION Co. Ltd. (Japex), operator of Service Contract 46, will drill this month the first exploratory well within its contract area covering the Tañon Strait in Central Visayas.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said that Japex, with partner Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. (Kufpec), will drill the exploratory well to determine the quality of the oil and gas deposits in the area.

To ensure smooth sailing for the contract operator, a public forum will be held today to discuss the concerns of various sectors with regard to the project, dubbed as the Ipil-ipil exploratory drilling project.

Issues to be discussed include those involving the local government officials, fisher folk and other stakeholders in the contract area.

Assistance will likewise be given to fisher folk from the municipalities of Pinamungajan and Aloguinsan, as part of the service contract operator's efforts to give something back to the community.

The Department of Energy awarded SC 46 to Japex in February 2005.

The firm committed to invest around $12.7 million over its seven-year exploration program.

Since the area was declared a protected seascape, the contract operator had to secure an environmental compliance certificate, to ensure that the petroleum exploration project would pose no harm to the marine ecosystem in the area.

The ECC was granted only in March 2007.

Japex had already conducted initial surveys over the exploration block, but a location site survey still had to be done in July, which then paved the way for concrete plans to start actual drilling activities.

If oil and gas reserves in the area would be proven to be of commercial value after the seven-year exploration period, Japex and Kufpec, which hold a 35-percent stake in the service contract, would be given another 25 years to bring the area into commercial production.

BSP moves to help exporters cope with appreciating peso

From page B1

their long-term performance.

The BSP also supports the proposed Credit Information System Act filed in Congress, another measure seen to reduce the cost of money.

"Establishing a central credit information bureau is expected to directly address the lack of adequate and reliable credit information in the country," Tetangco said.

The peso, which recently broke into the 43:$1 territory and expected to appreciate further toward the end of the year, is trading at its strongest level in seven years. The local currency has gained 12 percent since the start of the year, making it the second best performer among Asian currencies so far this year.

The appreciation of the local currency hurts exporters not only by reducing the peso equivalent of their dollar earnings. A rapid appreciation also results in a decline in their price competitiveness as well as in huge losses for supply contracts previously quoted using a stronger foreign exchange equivalent.

"The BSP has undertaken measures to temper the appreciation pressure and maintain overall stability in the foreign exchange market," Tetangco assured.

"These include the continued build-up in international reserves of the BSP and the prepayment of some of its external obligations," he said.

The BSP is looking for more foreign debts to settle ahead of maturity and encouraging other public and private sector borrowers to do the same. It has likewise continued to increase its foreign reserves by buying dollars from the Philippine Dealing System to stem the peso's appreciation. Its heavy dollar purchases has resulted in foreign exchange losses of nearly P50 billion in the first seven months of the year.

But Tetangco stressed that the export sector's long-term performance would not be determined by price competitiveness alone. He said reforms aimed at increasing productivity were important in raising and sustaining overall competitiveness.

"In this regard, the efforts to develop the export sector could focus on improving key areas such as power and transportation infrastructure, new technologies and manpower skills," Tetangco said.

"Moreover, market intelligence and promotion activities and negotiations for market access could be further intensified so that Philippine firms could capture greater market share," he said.

Finally, Tetangco said initiatives on foreign exchange liberalization would also help the export sector by reducing transaction costs.

The ongoing liberalization of restrictions on capital and current account outflows is also seen to ease appreciation pressures on the peso.

Shares end flat . . .

From page B1

percent to P3,030 after it raised its profit guidance for 2007. *(See story on Page B7.)*

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. lost 2.3 percent to P630. SM Investments Corp. slipped 2.6 percent to P377.50.

Ayala Land Inc. surged 3.3 percent to P15.50 after falling in past sessions on worries the company would be sued for negligence over the deadly blast at its Glorietta shopping mall last month.

Decliners outnumbered gainers 83 to 32, while 51 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

CURRENCIES

November 6, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.691276	1.000000	43.7490
Japan	Yen	0.006040	0.008738	0.3823
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437785	2.079900	90.9935
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.089033	0.128795	5.6347
Switzerland	FRANC	0.599182	0.866776	37.9206
Canada	Dollar	0.740521	1.071237	46.8655
Singapore	Dollar	0.476775	0.689703	30.1738
Australia	Dollar	0.635364	0.919118	40.2105
Bahrain	DINAR*	1.834840	2.654280	116.1221
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.184829	0.267373	11.6973
Brunei	Dollar	0.475136	0.687332	30.0701
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000109	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021869	0.031636	1.3840
UAE	DIRHAM	0.188302	0.272398	11.9171
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.446600	63.2873
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.001102	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.092725	0.134136	5.8683
Denmark	Kroner	0.134184	0.194111	8.4922
India	Rupee	0.017643	0.025523	1.1166
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206536	0.298775	13.0711
New Zealand	Dollar	0.529998	0.766695	33.5421
Sweden	Kroner	0.107776	0.155909	6.8209
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.021342	0.030874	1.3507

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 5, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 5, 2007

Domestic outsourcing business expected to rise

Vista Land sees P17B in sales from vertical developments

WITH A COMBINED ACTUAL AND PROjected income of P17 billion from its various condominium projects, Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. makes waves in the market for vertical developments.

In a statement, the company said proceeds from sold-out units of Viera, Grand Quartier I, Mosaic at Greenbelt, Trevi Tower I and Trevi Tower II has so far reached P3.5 billion. The company is also expecting to generate another P4.9 billion in sales from Grand Quartier II, Avant at The Fort, KL Mosaic, Marfori Tower II and Trevi Tower III.

The Pacific Residences and Presidio, which are low to mid-rise condominiums in inner city locations, are estimated to make P7.5 billion. And the soon to be opened Gallery Salcedo is projected to deliver P941 million.

Vista Land is recognized for its themed, masterplanned communities that offer quality housing that spans the full range of all market segments. The company has also successfully penetrated the market for vertical developments and has risen to become a trusted name in this field.

"It comes as a surprise to many people when they find out that we are not a new player when it comes to vertical developments. Our various subsidiaries—specifically Brittany Corp., Crown Asia and Camella—have all been into vertical developments in the past two years. We have launched 10 condominium developments since late 2005," said Vista Land president and CEO Jing Serrano.

Marking Vista Land's successful entry into this field are five sold-out condominium developments: The 18-story Viera—the first tower of Marfori at Lakefront City Central in Sucat; the 7-story Grand Quartier at Crosswinds in Tagaytay; the 32-story designer condominium Mosaic at Greenbelt 4; and Trevi Tower I (27 stories) and II (37 stories) along Pasong Tamo.

The 22-story Marfori Tower II, the 38-story Avant at The Fort, the 25-story Trevi Tower III and the Grand Quartier II are now considered substantially sold-out.

Last October, Brittany Corp. launched its second Greenbelt condominium property. Named the KL Mosaic—in partnership with the Kalaw-Ledesma family—it was a response to the overwhelming reception of the first Mosaic property which sold 70 percent of its units on the first month alone. Vista Land had infused P5 billion in investments into Mosaic and other Brittany Corp. developments in Makati.

Vista Land is also active in low and mid-rise condominium developments in inner cities like Pacific Residences in Taguig and the 15-building condo community, Presidio, at Lakefront in Sucat. Within the month, Crown Asia will launch The Gallery Salcedo—its first high-rise offering.

More Filipinos now transacting online

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE OUTSOURCING TREND IS seen to take deeper roots among local companies as more Filipinos get the hang of making purchases and transactions by phone or the Internet, according to Pilipinas Teleserve Inc.

Pilipinas Teleserve, a member of the Contact Center Association of the Phlippines, is one of a few local outsourced service providers that serve domestic entities, including the National Statistics Office, McDonalds and Petron Corp.

Company director Raffy David said in an interview that the use of outsourced services was increasing because the public was getting more comfortable with online transactions and more companies could take this as a signal to contract service providers.

"Traffic is getting denser," he said. "For birth certificates alone, we are handling no less than 30,000 calls a day."

David said Pilipinas Teleserve logged in the first nine months some 300,000 transactions or about the number it posted for the entire 2006.

"This is not limited to Metro Manila residents who are expected to adopt new ways of doing this faster than those from the provinces," he added. "Half of our calls come from Metro Manila and half from outside the capital."

David said the trend is the same with similar government services outsourced to Pilipinas Teleserve, including transactions related to marriage and death certificates or exit clearances from the Philippine Overseas Employment Authority.

"More consumers are also ordering food by phone as we have seen with our programs with McDonalds, North Park and Super Bowl, and even buying LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) from Petron."

David sad he was predicting a "proliferation" of consumer services being offered and accessed through contact centers.

On Monday, the Business Process Association of the Philippines launched its Offshoring & Outsourcing Philippines: Roadmap to 2010," which aims at realizing a 41-percent growth in revenue from $3.3 billion in 2006 to $13 billion in 2010.

BPA/P chief executive Oscar Sañez said the roadmap strives at a once in a lifetime opportunity for the country to become a global O&O player, with a 10-percent market share of what is estimated to become a $130-billion industry in 2010.

Security Bank income up 36%

SECURITY BANK CORP. POSTED A 36-PERcent growth in net income in the first nine months of the year to P1.83 billion from P1.35 billion in the same period last year.

Its loan portfolio registered a 26-percent increase to P42.3 billion, which helped propel SBC's year-to-date net interest income to P3.4 billion, which was 25 percent higher than year-ago level.

SBC president and chief executive officer Alberto S. Villarosa said: "We have directed considerable focus and energy in shifting our business toward steadily building quality loan assets with an enhanced yield profile and leveraging on customer relationships cultivated over the last few years to further improve the other income component of our business as we anticipated a more challenging environment for generating trading gains."

SBC's other income rose 15 percent to P2.1 billion by the end of the third quarter.

Carlos M. Borromeo, SBC chief financial officer, said the bank was able to post a 51-percent growth in service charges to P648 million.

The bank, he said, also posted a 69-percent growth in miscellaneous income to P450 million with the reduction in asset disposal losses.

The healthy growth in the other income components offset the 12-percent decline in foreign exchange and trading gains, which amounted to P959 million.

Gurango to hold IPO next year

By Riza T. Olchondra

HOMEGROWN IT FIRM GURANGO SOFTware Corp. yesterday said it was planning to raise P300 million through an initial public offering (IPO) in the first quarter of 2008 to finance expansion plans.

Company CEO Joey Gurango said the firm was seeking the Philippine Stock Exchange's approval for its plan to raise its authorized capital stock from P4.9 million to P800 million.

The number of shares to be offered, offer price and the exact date of the IPO have yet to be finalized.

The IPO will be managed by BPI Capital Corp., with JCV & Associates serving as financial advisors.

Proceeds from the IPO will fund software and office acquisitions worldwide, said Gurango.

The company's proprietary offerings include the Smart HR, a human resource management software; Dynamic Pay, a global payroll software; and Forum, an events management software. It has offices in the Philippines, Singapore, Australia and South Africa.

FDC to issue 3.5B shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP. (FDC), the publicly listed holding firm of the Gotianun family, has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the issuance of up to 3.5 billion new and existing shares.

In a revised prospectus filed with the SEC, FDC said the amount to be raised, estimated at P16 billion, would be used to finance the projects of Filinvest Alabang Inc. (FAI), expand into sugar milling and refinery, go into ethanol production and sugar farming, raise the capital of banking unit East West Banking Corp. and the possible acquisition of another bank, and to fund two FDC projects in Mactan and Fort Bonifacio.

FDC will issue up to 2.5 billion new shares while its parent ALG (Andrew L. Gotianun) Holdings Corp. will offer up to 1 billion shares. The price of the offer has yet to be set.

FAI plans to accelerate the development of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang and expand into additional mixed-use projects as well as high-rise condominium projects in Metro Manila.

FAI develops commercial products such as the PBCom Tower n Makati, the 200,000-square meter Festival Supermall in Alabang, the Palms Country Club, and residential and small office home office (Soho) buildings. FAI also plans to continue drawing from the resources of its partnership with sister firm Filinvest Land Inc. in the building of office spaces.

FDC earlier said it would expand its newly acquired sugar mills and refineries, and put up an ethanol plant for its planned venture into biofuels.

For the next five years, FDC said it would spend some P30 billion for its projects.

FDC said it was dipping its hands into the manufacturing business with the acquisition of management company Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp. from ALG Holdings Corp., the owner of Pacific Sugar and the private holding firm of property magnate Andrew Gotianun.

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- ✓ *CEO dialogue and networking opportunity* between the mining and construction industry

SHOW HOURS:

November 15 - 17	November 18
10:30 a.m. - 7:00p.m.	10:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

LIST OF SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS

November 15, Thursday

Seminar Rm 1 (1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.)
1. Current Status of Mining and Mineral Exploration Activities in the Philippines by Glenn Noble, Division Chief, Mineral Economic & Information Division
2. Social Responsibility in Mining by Dir. FS Mon Monteros, Professor of Social Philosophy, Bukidnon State University
3. Aggregates Mining and Development by Romeo B. Molano, General Manager, Vulcan Materials Corp
4. Uranium Potential of the Philippines by Aloysius Diaz, EVP / COO Trans Asia Minerals Corp.
5. Presentation on New Mining Operating Equipment by Mattross Vass SouthEast Asia, Pete Trading

Seminar Rm 2
Presentation by SANDVIK TAMROCK

November 16, Friday

Seminar Rm 2

1:00 - 1:45p.m.	Redefining CAD with Functional Design: From 2D to 3D by CIM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
2:00 - 2:45p.m.	SHIMADZU: Mineral Assaying Seminar Using AAS/ICPS/XRF by SHIMADZU PHILS. CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m.	How to Choose a Good Quality Tile by MARIWASA SIAM CERAMICS, INC.
4:00 - 4:45p.m.	Acoustics by EAGLE SHIELD ENTERPRISES

November 17, Saturday

Seminar Rm 2

11:00 - 11:45a.m.	Aeroquip Hoses by MESCO, INC.
1:00 - 1:45p.m.	Product Presentation of Destiny Products & Features by PARADISE CHEMICAL CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m.	Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m.	How To Make Concrete Stamping System by GT STONE WORKS
4:00 - 5:45p.m.	Presentation by FW NICOL

November 18, Sunday

Seminar Rm 2

11:00 11:45a.m.	Presentation by INFRATEX / PGI
1:00 - 1:45p.m.	Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m.	Presentation by CIGI
3:00 - 3:45p.m.	Presentation by STONE AGE
4:00 - 4:45p.m.	Presentation by ALUFORM

All Schedules are Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 6, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.7	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	12,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	61	61.5	60.5	61	2,732,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67	66.5	67	2,165,600
748	540	China Banking Corp.	715	715	705	705	7,950
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	410,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	62.5	63.5	62.5	62.5	3,577,100
65.5	35	Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	47	47	30,600
68	43	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	300
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	86,000
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	76	77	76	77	22,100
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	49.5	49.5	68,900
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.14	2.18	2.02	2.04	5,741,000
16.25	1.45	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14	14.25	13.75	14	1,226,800
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	600
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	687,000
1,970.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,950.00	1,965.00	1,950.00	1,965.00	750
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.35	1,458,000
3.1	1.22	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	2,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,270.00	1,270.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	4,250
2,470.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,470.00	2,470.00	2,470.00	2,470.00	420
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	300,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	2,831,000
70.5	40	First Gen Corp.	60.5	60.5	60	60.5	926,300
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84	84	83.5	84	1,324,500
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	16.75	17.25	16.75	17	12,084,600
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Company	84	84	82	83.5	626,100
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	11,181,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	7.2	7.2	6.8	7	3,723,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	54,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.86	2.04	1.8	1.98	15,700,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	123,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.84	1.84	678,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	12,500
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	50.5	50.5	50	50	1,024,200
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	810,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	25,000
60	57	San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57	57	177,800
88	57	San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	57	58	697,400
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	13,000
21.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	8,502,700
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	553,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	15,200
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2	4,151,000
7	2.6	Republic Cement Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	219,000
2	0.54	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.12	3,107,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	487,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	3,180,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	115,000
0.185	0.044	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.185	0.16	0.175	944,560,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	3,690,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.85	135,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,500,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	304,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.016	470,200,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	6,165,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.38	2.4	2.36	2.36	2,031,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	12,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	635	640	620	630	683,390
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.5	14.5	14	14.5	106,900
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.5	2,627,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	792,600
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	80,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.8	640,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	134,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	55,000
0.8	0.22	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.5	1,739,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	215,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. A	0.215	0.225	0.21	0.22	615,000,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	690,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	387.5	387.5	377.5	377.5	528,550
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	2,620,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.77	0.77	750,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	100,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	15.25	15.25	15	15	50,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,710,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.5	1.6	1.48	1.6	2,476,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	15.5	14.75	15.5	29,848,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	550,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	47,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp.A	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	130,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	110,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	1,210,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.78	2,390,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.27	12,050,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.06	10,623,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	18,613,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	570,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	200,000
2.9	1	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	29,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,330,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.3	4.4	14,184,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	342,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.51	10,380,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.75	21	20.75	20.75	2,102,100
5.9	1.63	SM Development Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.35	309,000
13.5	7.44	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.5	11.75	6,625,000
3.25	1.34	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.34	2.34	383,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	11,840,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.4	5.4	5	5.2	8,660,000
4.5	0.38	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc	3.35	3.35	3	3	13,301,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	46,900
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	200,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1	1	0.9	0.9	30,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.48	624,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,745.00	1,750.00	1,725.00	1,730.00	118,000
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,975.00	3,040.00	2,975.00	3,030.00	236,860
8.1	5.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	799,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	4,310,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.8	100,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9	9.1	8.9	9	409,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.042	0.044	0.042	0.043	55,300,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	17.5	18.5	17.25	17.25	46,400
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	842,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	6,380,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	383,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	100,800,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3.1	3.25	3.05	3.1	1,653,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	24,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4	4	4	4	11,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	42	42.5	42	42.5	1,403,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	50,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	8,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3	3	2.85	2.85	229,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.89	0.94	0.86	0.87	36,850,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	500,000
		EDUCATION					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.25	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	129,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12	12	12	100,500
30	4.8	[illegible] Inc	11	11	9.8	9.8	2,047,500
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	113,400,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	1,241,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6	6.1	6	6	1,108,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	883,700
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12,200
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10.25	10.25	9.7	9.9	643,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.46	2.5	2.42	2.42	29,778,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	9,990,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	4,330,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	21,600,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	31,700,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	24.5	23.75	24	1,088,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	22,600,000
11	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.5	6,340,200
46.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	44	44.5	44	44.5	415,000
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	840,000
1.8	0.68	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,146,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,690,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	176,100,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.027	83,900,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	11.75	11.75	11	11	204,900
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	53,000,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	954.25	DOWN	7.73	18,584,570	597,197,315.00
Industrial	4,627.92	DOWN	50.92	103,290,300	2,622,720,890.00
Holding Firms	2,226.97	DOWN	40.62	2,074,394,440	1,021,960,075.00
Property	1,687.41	UP	7.37	148,302,600	792,898,705.00
Service	1,851.04	UP	25.13	213,966,060	1,147,112,578.20
Mining & Oil	8,426.97	DOWN	155.08	565,010,300	239,663,750.00
All Shares Index	2,341.42	DOWN	12.91		
PSEi	3,773.63	DOWN	1.18		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,123,548,270	6,421,553,313.20

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Splash sets IPO price at ₱8.98

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PERSONAL CARE giant Splash Corp. has set the price of its initial public offering (IPO) at P8.98 a share, which will raise P2.01 billion for the company and its shareholders.

The price was disclosed by the company's underwriters, First Metro Investments Corp. and SB Capital Investments Corp., to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The final offer price is at the lower end of the company's price range of P8.70 to P11.18 each.

In a statement, Splash chief finance officer Emmanuel Manucom said the final offer price "is a way of giving back to the loyal Filipinos that have been patronizing the company all these years."

"We want to give the small investors, many of whom are loyal customers, the opportunity to own part of a company with products they patronize. The price we have set is at the lower end of the price range that we've set some weeks back, which means more upside for the investors," he said.

Splash is offering 223.85 million shares to the public, consisting of 188.85 million new shares and 35 million shares owned by Splash Holdings Inc., a wholly owned investment company of Splash Group founders Rolando Hortaleza and his wife Rosalinda Ang-Hortaleza.

SMBI to raise ₱25B from IPO

SAN MIGUEL BREWERY Inc. (SMBI), San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) domestic beer business unit, plans to raise as much as P25.2 billion from its proposed initial public offer by the first quarter next year.

SMBI will sell 1.548 billion shares at between P9.50 and P16.30 each, SMBI's registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed.

The offer will consist of 154.88 million new shares, and 1.39 billion shares owned by SMC.

Total proceeds to be raised by SMBI and SMC from the public offer may amount to between P14.7 billion and P25.2 billion.

Of the total, SMBI will generate gross proceeds of P1.47-P2.5 billion from the primary offer while the balance will go to SMC.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said SMC would use the proceeds from the offer to pare down debt. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

People, Events & Products

Sun Life mutual funds hit P17.8 billion

SUN LIFE ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY Inc (SLAMC), the mutual funds arm of Sun Life Financial-Philippines (SLFP), is managing assets worth P17.8 billion as of end of 3rd quarter this year. This is about 105 percent higher compared to the same period last year. Under the banner of Sun Life Prosperity Funds, the asset manager has under its wings a peso bond fund, a balanced fund, an equity or stock fund, a money market fund, a government securities fund and two variants of US dollar funds.

The biggest fund in terms of net assets as of the end of 3rd quarter this year is the Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund with P9.1 billion. The second placer is the Sun Life Prosperity Bond fund with net assets worth P3.2 billion, followed by Philippine Equity Fund with P2.9 billion. The Dollar Advantage Fund stood at P1.4 billion.

"The Balanced Fund has grown substantially since the start of the year," says SLFP president and chief executive officer Henry Joseph Herrera. "The balanced fund is so popular because it allows investors to enjoy the best of both worlds over the long term, maximizing their potential to earn through its equity component while cushioning the impact of market fluctuations through its fixed income securities."

Year-on-year net return for the Prosperity Balanced Fund as of Sept. 28 was likewise impressive at 29.5 percent. Posting the highest returns for the one year period is the Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund with net returns of 39.7 percent. These returns already reflected the substantial market decline experienced in August this year resulting from the fallout of subprime mortgage concerns in the United States.

Herrera said that the healthy return posted by the Balanced Fund is a result of the company's active asset allocation strategy. "Depending on market conditions, it may have up to 80 percent of its fund invested in either fixed income or equities. This kind of flexibility allows Sun Life to be proactive in the way it manages its investment and to really take advantage of market opportunities," Herrera noted.

The Sun Life chief also attributed the resilience of the funds to the company's very competent fund managers who have a keen sense of market trends.

"As the fund managers can leverage on Sun Life's global reach, they have a keen sense of the evolving global market volatility. Therefore, they could craft strategies well in advance and consequently implement measures that would be beneficial to the investors. It is such skill and passion that have made us earn the trust and confidence of our customers," Herrera said.

Sun Life Financial-Philippines is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies, a leading international financial services organization providing a diverse range of wealth accumulation and protection products and services to individual and corporate customers. Chartered in 1865, Sun Life Financial and its partners today have operations in key markets worldwide including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, India, China and Bermuda.

Global healthcare experts converge in the Philippines

TOP HEALTHCARE EXPERTS FROM THE United States, Europe, Middle East, South and Southeast Asia are set to speak at the 2nd International Medical Travel Conference (IMTC 2007) to be held from Nov. 19 to 23 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City.

Organized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), the four-day event aims to provide a venue for exchanges among healthcare service providers, health benefits companies, financiers, insurance travel partners, government agencies and business corporations from over 23 countries worldwide.

In a statement, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said, "We see health tourism bringing in new opportunities to our local players in both the medical and travel trade industry. The department is urging stakeholders in these areas to come to the conference to learn the latest global trends and to expand their network."

Durano explained that IMTC 2007 is but a step the DOT is taking to help the Philippine economy get a share of a fast-growing $40-billion industry.

Scheduled to deliver the IMTC 2007 keynote address is Jonathan Edelheit, president of the Medical Tourism Association of the United States and vice-president of the health maintenance organization Optimed Health/United Group Programs. He will speak on the next wave of medical travel for employers, health plans and third party administrators. Edelheit will also moderate one of the cross-country panels on the diagnostics of healthcare tourism.

Other presenters/speakers are: Steve Green, consultant physician in infectious diseases and tropical medicine of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust; TC Li, representative of the Trent Accreditation Scheme and the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in the United Kingdom; Dr. Joel Beltran, Asian Hospital and Medical Center's director for business development and marketing; Dr. Johnny Sinon, deputy regional medical director of the International SOS in Singapore; Dr. Eric Guite, director of the Global Assistance and Healthcare in the United States; Dr. Premhar Shah, CEO and medical director of The Medical Tourist Company, director Vibha Shah MD;

Hospital director of the Bangkok and Phuket Hospitals Dr. Kongkiat Kespechara; Anil K. Maini, president for corporate development of Apollo Hospitals Group and the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in India; Renee Stephano, legal counsel of Optimed Health/United Group Programs; DOT Director for Product Research and Development Elizabeth Nelle, and Dr. Hernando Delizo, concurrent chair for membership and promotion of the Philippine Retirement Association Inc and Presidential Task Force on Health and Wellness.

"Health and wellness tourism combines leisure and relaxing experiences sought by medical tourists. The country's beaches and resorts, the presence of world-class facilities and expertise, as well as the nurturing and friendly disposition of our people are what will best entice traveling patients to come here," Nelle shared.

Nelle further revealed that her team is organizing the Contract Exchange and Business Clinics, one of the most popular segments of IMTC. This portion offers exclusive networking sessions between the participants and resource persons.

Delegates will also benefit from site visits to the established international patient facilities in the Philippines, including the DOT-accredited medical centers in Metro Manila.

Interested parties may log on to www.medicaltravelconference.com for more information. They may also call DOT at 523-8411 locals 250 and 271, 524-2254 and 523-1929 or e-mail efnelle@tourism.gov.ph to learn more about the event and the opportunities of the burgeoning medical travel industry.

Cilostazol reduces stroke, PAD risk

PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE (PAD), stroke and coronary heart disease have one thing in common: They are caused by blocked arteries impairing the circulation. Cilostazol, an anti-platelet agent (used to prevent blood clots), is one of the treatments prescribed by doctors for PAD and for the reduction in the risk of stroke.

"To healthy people, this may not seem significant, but to this patient population (at risk for stroke and PAD), it could mean the difference between being homebound and actively living," said Dr. Gary Ingenito, from Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Inc, referring to the benefits of cilostazol.

Stroke and heart disease remain as leading causes of lifetime disability; and PAD affects over 30 million people worldwide, according to the Society of Interventional Radiology.

"PAD has a strong correlation to coronary heart disease and carries a higher risk of stroke and heart attack," said Dr. Emile R. Mohler III, director of Vascular Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Most PAD patients have high cholesterol levels which build up to form hardened plaques within the arteries slowing down the blood flow. Peripheral arteries are extended arteries located in parts like the arms or the legs, which are common areas affected by PAD.

Stroke, on the other hand, is a result of blocked arteries restricting blood flow to the brain. Insufficient blood flow to the brain may result in loss of motor skill or disability.

PAD, just like stroke, is a serious disease that is often underestimated. People are unaware of its symptoms and lack the needed knowledge on the matter. "It is disturbing that so many people do not understand that stroke can be prevented. There are a number of risk factors that can be controlled to reduce the chances of stroke," said Dr. Erin Lalor from the National Stroke Foundation.

According to the University of Iowa Healthcare, it is important that public awareness regarding blocked arteries prevention is well disseminated. Aside from this, constant physician check-ups and compliance with medications must be practiced by patients.

Blocked arteries can be prevented with surgery and other medical practices like angioplasty (the mechanical widening of a narrowed or totally obstructed blood vessel). Blood thinning medications such as cilostazol reduce blood clots and are helpful in reducing the risk of stroke and PAD. Referring to the benefits of effective antiplatelet drugs on patients with PAD, the Food and Drugs Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation director Dr. Janet Woodcock said, "If you can only walk a block, then being able to walk a couple more blocks is a really big improvement and might change your quality of life".

Experience with Cilostazol (Pletaal) as an anti-platelet is supported by evidence-based trials for more than 10 years.

For more information, call the customer hotline at 811-4723 in Metro Manila or 1-800-1888-4723 for provincial calls.

PLDT raises '07 goal as Q3 operating profit rises

Globe 9-month profit up by 4% to ₱9.7B

By Riza T. Olchondra

GLOBE TELECOM INC. YESTERDAY reported a 4-percent increase in its nine-month net profit on the back of a double-digit subscriber growth.

Consolidated service revenue for the nine months increased by 11 percent year-on-year to P47.2 billion, brought about by a 12-percent and six-percent revenue growth from its wireless and wireline businesses, respectively. Net income hit P9.7 billion during the period, up from P9.3 billion a year ago.

Globe, owned by Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., beat its own expectations. It earlier said its revenue might not grow much in the second half after election-related spending in the first half fizzled out and due to one-time charges related to the prepayment of its $300-million notes.

Stripping out the impact of foreign exchange and mark-to-market gains/losses and the nonrecurring bond redemption costs, core net income rose 20 percent to P10.5 billion from year-ago level.

Profitability remained strong with margins at 65 percent. Globe said its wireless business continued to benefit from strong sales efforts and targeted marketing initiatives, enabling the business to sustain double-digit subscriber growth across all brands. Strong gross additions and effective churn management kept net additions above the one million mark for the fourth consecutive quarter, bringing total wireless SIM base to 19.2 million at the end of the third quarter.

On the wireline business, broadband continued to be the driving force, with its subscriber base doubling versus last year's to reach 109,000 contributing a total of P846 million in revenue.

"We are encouraged by the record performance of our wireless business, and are very excited by the rapid growth of our broadband business," Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. said in a statement.

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. posted a 13-percent rise in third-quarter operating profit as data and broadband revenues gathered steam, prompting it to raise its full-year forecast.

July-September core earnings, which strip out currency swings and derivative gains, rose 13.2 percent to P9.09 billion, while net earnings fell 9 percent to P9.51 billion from year-ago level due to a stronger peso .

For the first nine months, core earnings grew 13 percent to P26.2 billion from P23.2 billion in the same period last year. Net earnings rose three percent to P26.5 billion from P25.7 billion last year.

PLDT is focusing on Internet services, outsourcing and attracting new mobile phone customers in rural provinces as the rate of new subscribers slows in urban areas.

The group is also planning to list its outsourcing units in the second half of next year.

A rising peso, which has gained almost 12 percent against the dollar this year, has dented earnings from international long distance services and its outsourcing and call center operations.

"If you include foreign exchange losses the headline may not look as good but we are looking more at the underlying business. We still think its mainline businesses will continue to show growth," said Paul Joseph Garcia, ING fund manager.

Overall, wireless service revenues rose 10 percent in the first nine months, and PLDT said it was raising its full-year core earnings forecast to P34.5-P35 billion from earlier guidance of P33-P34 billion.

The company said its profits were likely to be at the top of the revised range.

Shares of PLDT, partly owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Japan's NTT group, rose 1.85 percent to P3,030 after the results, while the main index was flat.

PLDT also said it had approved a plan to change the terms of its 2009, 2012 and 2017 bonds to give it greater flexibility on dividend payments.

Equity shareholders currently earn a 5 percent dividend yield from PLDT, about twice the 2.7 percent average for the market. Investors said this payout coupled with a good operational outlook made the company an attractive bet despite the impact of a stronger peso. Around 38 percent of PLDT's revenues are linked to the dollar. *Reuters*

MAGUINDANAO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(MAGELCO-PALMA)
Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato
-oOo-

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

1. The MAGELCO-PALMA through the Pre-Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites interested suppliers and contractors to pre-qualify and bid the following electrical equipment on easy installment plan or lease to own:
   - I. One (1) Unit 10 MVA Power Transformer Off-Load, 69 KV-Delta, 13.2/7.62 KV Wye
   - II. 69 KV Accessories
     - a) Disconnect Switch, 69 KV, 3 Gang - 1 set
     - b) Lightning Arrester, 15 KV station Type - 3 sets
     - c) Circuit Breaker, 69 KV, 3 Phase, SF6 - 1 unit
     - d) Battery Charger & Control Cabinet - 1 set
     - e) Steel Structure 69 KV - 1 set
   - III. 13.2 KV Electrical Component:
     - a) 3 Phase Reclosers - 2 units
     - b) Disconnect Switch 15 KV - 2 sets
     - c) Control Panel (13.2 KV) - 1 set
     - d) Lightning Arrester 15 KV Station Type - 3 sets
     - e) Steel Structure
   - IV. Commissioning/Testing
2. The needed documents for accreditation and bid forms are available at MAGELCO, Capton, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao (Tel. No. 064-431-0088). A Bid fee of Php 3,500.00 is required and non-refundable.
3. The following schedule shall be strictly observed:

Submission of Documents for accreditation	November 08, 2007
Issuance of bid documents	November 22, 2007
Submission and opening of bids at Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato	December 07, 2007 (09:00 a.m.)

4. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all attending bidders, members of the PBAC and a representative from the Internal Audit Department.
5. The bidder with the most favorable offer of installment plan or lease to own shall be awarded the contract.
6. PBAC reserves the right to award or reject any or all bids in accordance to the existing NEA procurement policy.

MAGELCO-PALMA MANAGEMENT

(PDI – October 25, 31 & Nov. 7, 2007)

ISABELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO II) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following:

One (1) unit - Reconditioned Isuzu Forward with 6HE1 Engine with Boom 2.9 tons capacity, Tadano brand or its equivalent 6-wheeler, Tires 8:25 x 16 Brand new, complete with standard accessories, newly painted, brand new batteries.

Bidding Documents may be secured from the PBAC Chairman starting November 5, 2007 by any interested Bidder upon submission of a Letter of Intent, Company Profile and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 3,500.00.

A Pre-Bid Conference wherein sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals (in separate envelopes duly marked as such) will be received by the PBAC at the ISELCO II Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., November 21, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of bidders or representatives on the date which shall be set by the PBAC during the conference. Financial proposals will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

All bids submitted must be accompaniedy by a bid security in cash or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to 10% of the amount of Bid. This bid security will be valid for at least 60 days starting from the date of bid opening.

ISELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein and accept only bid advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) LUZVIMINDA L. PANANGUI
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ERNESTO T. CUBANGBANG
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - Nov. 7 & 13, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1 Lot Soil Improvement/Stabilization for the Proposed LBP Malaybalay Office Building Construction Located at M. Fortich Street, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon (adjacent to G.Tabios Building)	P2,300,000.00	November 15, 2007 2:00 PM	November 28, 2007 1:00 PM	P 1,200.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting November 7, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s)

(PDI - November 07 2007)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

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UNIONBANK

UnionBank Plaza, Meralco Avenue cor. Onyx & Sapphire Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

A full-service universal bank with 186 branches
A partnership among the Aboitiz Group, Insular Life Assurance Co. and Social Security System

BALANCE SHEET
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2007

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	2,720,401,263.60
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		22,147,954,850.94
Due from Other Banks		1,931,488,541.33
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		387,926,740.24
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets (Net)		34,133,291,046.32
Held-to-Maturity (HTM) Financial Assets (Net)		2,650,247,403.05
Loans and Receivables:		77,728,515,556.37
Interbank Loans Receivable		40,307,934,703.64
Loans and Receivables - Others		37,420,580,851.73
Loans and Receivables Arising from RA/CA/PR/SLB		1.00
Other Financial Assets		3,345,962,344.96
Equity Investment in Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures (Net)		624,803,125.92
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixture and Equipment (Net)		4,159,941,960.15
Real and Other Properties Acquired (Net)		5,738,014,822.18
Non-Current Assets Held for Sale		215,202,933.14
Other Assets (Net)		15,444,510,965.57
TOTAL ASSETS	P	171,228,261,553.77

LIABILITIES

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss	P	423,450,481.46
Deposit Liabilities		105,814,720,022.26
Bills Payable:		20,805,162,452.00
BSP (Rediscounting and Other Advances)		38,458,530.83
Interbank Loans-Payable		8,682,872,612.04
Others		12,083,831,309.13
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Net)		1,287,100,000.00
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		53,084,548.80
Other Financial Liabilities		8,950,087,901.47
Other Liabilities		8,916,493,828.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	146,250,099,234.15

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock	P	12,202,432,188.68
Other Capital Accounts		1,525,934,731.24
Retained Earnings		11,249,795,399.70
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	24,978,162,319.62
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	171,228,261,553.77

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Guarantees Issued	P	765,027,491.62
Financial Standby Letters of Credit		928,711,403.39
Commercial Letters of Credit		575,376,951.41
Spot Foreign Exchange Contracts		39,567,440,428.27
Trust Department Accounts:		25,750,466,488.12
Trust and Agency Accounts		4,059,936,469.37
Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF)		7,501,570,217.88
Other Trust and Fiduciary Accounts		14,188,959,800.87
Derivatives		275,000,000.00
Others		1,999,054,801.54
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	69,861,077,564.35

Additional Information

Compliance with *Magna Carta* - 6% for Small Enterprises	
a. 6% Small Enterprises	6.43
b. 2% for Medium Enterprises	4.22
Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)	4,204,711,327.33
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio (NPL to TLP)	5.20
Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets	7,549,625,167.42
General provision for loan losses	555,115,158.57
Specific provision for loan losses	1,789,408,399.65
Return on Equity (ROE)	15.33
DOSRI loans and receivables	722,526,266.33
Ratio of DOSRI loans and receivables to TLP	0.01
Past due DOSRI loans and receivables	6,123.55
Ratio of Past due DOSRI loans and receivables to TLP	0.00
Capital Adequacy Ratio (Solo Basis)	0.00
a. Tier 1 (Solo Basis)	14.38
b. Total (Solo Basis)	15.60

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Cesar G. Ilagan and Guia C. Lim of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

CESAR G. ILAGAN
Controller

GUIA C. LIM
Executive Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 24th day of October, 2007, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 01863369 issued at Pasig City on April 12, 2007 and Community Tax No. 04694991 issued at Manila on January 19, 2007, respectively.

Doc No. 331
Page No. 68
Book No. VIII
Series of 2007

MICHAEL E. VARGAS
Notary Public for Pasig, Taguig
San Juan and Pateros
Commission expires December 31, 2007
IBP No. 702561 / 01-12-07 / RSM
PTR No. 5333678 / 01-05-07 / Manila
Roll of Attorneys No. 41977

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 30, 2007

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	2,720,401,263.60
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		22,147,954,850.94
Due from Other Banks		1,931,488,541.33
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		388,447,000.80
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets (Net)		34,133,291,046.32
Held-to-Maturity (HTM) Financial Assets (Net)		2,650,247,403.05
Loans and Receivables (Net)		77,728,515,556.37
Interbank Loans Receivable		40,307,934,703.64
Loans and Receivables - Others		37,420,580,851.73
Loans and Receivables Arising from RA/CA/PR/SLB		1.00
Other Financial Assets		3,345,962,344.96
Equity Investment in Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures (Net)		615,803,125.92
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixture and Equipment (Net)		4,159,941,963.15
Real and Other Properties Acquired (Net)		5,738,014,822.18
Non-Current Assets Held for Sale		215,202,933.14
Other Assets (Net)		15,441,133,828.59
TOTAL ASSETS	P	171,216,404,680.35

LIABILITIES

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss	P	423,450,481.46
Deposit Liabilities		105,810,854,558.30
Bills Payable:		20,805,662,452.00
BSP (Rediscounting and Other Advances)		38,458,530.83
Interbank Loans Payable		8,682,872,612.04
Others		12,084,331,309.13
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Net)		1,287,100,000.00
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		53,084,548.80
Other Financial Liabilities		8,946,162,098.37
Other Liabilities		8,920,772,124.45
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	146,247,036,263.38

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock	P	12,202,432,188.68
Other Capital Accounts		1,525,916,134.14
Retained Earnings		11,239,589,627.15
Minority Interest in Subsidiaries		1,430,467.00
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		24,969,368,416.97
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	171,216,404,680.35

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Guarantees Issued	P	765,027,491.62
Financial Standby Letters of Credit		928,711,403.39
Commercial Letters of Credit		575,376,951.41
Spot Foreign Exchange Contracts		39,567,440,428.27
Trust Department Accounts:		25,750,466,488.12
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Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF)		7,501,570,217.88
Other Trust and Fiduciary Accounts		14,188,959,800.87
Derivatives		275,000,000.00
Others		1,999,054,801.54
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	69,861,077,564.35

Additional Information

1. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   1. UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
   2. UBP Securities Inc.
   3. Interventure Capital Corporation
2. Capital Adequacy Ratio (Consolidated Basis):
   - a. Tier 1 (Consolidated Basis) 14.38
   - b. Total (Consolidated Basis) 15.60

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Cesar G. Ilagan and Guia C. Lim of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

CESAR G. ILAGAN
Controller

GUIA C. LIM
Executive Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 24th day of October, 2007, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 01863369 issued at Pasig City on April 12, 2007 and Community Tax No. 04694991 issued at Manila on January 19, 2007, respectively.

Doc No. 330
Page No. 67
Book No. VII
Series of 2007

MICHAEL E. VARGAS
Notary Public for Pasig, Taguig
San Juan and Pateros
Commission expires December 31, 2007
IBP No. 702561 / 01-12-07 / RSM
PTR No. 5333678 / 01-05-07 / Manila
Roll of Attorneys No. 41977

www.unionbankph.com

BPI promo extended to Dec. 31

HERE'S MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM BPI. The BPI: A World of Compliments promo has been extended until Dec. 31 and BPI is inviting all its customers to keep on growing their deposits so they can join the final raffle draw to be held in January 2008.

Prizes at stake include a five-day vacation trip for two to Palawan and a five-day vacation trip for four to the island of Maldives with $1,000 pocket money. The second prize, a whopping P500,000 shopping spree to be spent at any of the exclusive designer stores at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, has recently been awarded to Jimmy Balverde, a depositor at BPI Davao Uyanguren branch.

To join the promo, depositors need to open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every P5,000 deposit in a savings or checking account or every P25,000 increase in a time deposit entitles the depositor to a raffle entry. On top of that, a minimum fresh fund deposit of P300,000 entitles depositors to receive premium items like home appliances, gadgets, Store Specialists Inc GCs and travel accessories.

For more information about BPI A World of Compliments, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. The promo is ongoing until Dec. 31.

CyberPress sets benefit concert

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Journalists Association of the Philippines (Itjap), popularly known as "CyberPress," comes to the aid of an ailing former member via a benefit concert on Nov. 10 at the Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 2, Makati City.

The concert, entitled "The Perfect Pair," is a series of exciting shows that kicked off Oct. 27 and marks the comeback of vocalist Anna Fegi and musical director Toti Fuentes to the local concert scene. The series will culminate on Nov. 22 via an exciting finale at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

CyberPress, an organization of journalists covering the local information technology (IT) beat, is co-sponsoring the Nov. 10 schedule of "The Perfect Pair" together with Next Mobile, one of the telecommunication service providers in the country, in order to raise funds for the surgery and medication expenses of Betty Daguio-Jose, a former journalist herself and one of the founding members of CyberPress.

Betty was diagnosed with lupus nephritis, a debilitating kidney disease, and doctors have already ordered an immediate kidney transplant. This project of CyberPress also serves as a fitting recognition for Betty's invaluable help in making IT journalism part of the mainstream media today.

"The Perfect Pair" will also feature former beauty queen Rachel Anne Wolfe.

The three top-notch entertainers will certainly electrify the Merk's Bar Bistro stage, featuring Anna and Toti's undeniable musical chemistry, having collaborated on several projects in the past. Their collective genius shall be complemented by Rachel's indubitable musical artistry, from R&B, jazz, and even dance music.

Their captivating performances thus serve as a perfect highlight to the show as they showcase their diverse musicality and world-class entertainment qualities.

For more information and ticket inquiries, e-mail lawrence.casiraya@gmail.com.

Philippines hosts Asean pulp, paper conference

THE PHILIPPINE PULP & PAPER MANUFACturers Association (Pulpapel) will be hosting the 28 Federation of Asean Pulp and Paper Industry (Fappi) Conference from Nov. 7 to 9 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The conference is held every two years and the hosting of the conference is rotated among Asean member countries composed of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Other Asian paper industry associations composed of Japan, Korea and Taiwan are also participants to the Fappi Conference. The conference theme is "Unity Amidst Diversity". Delegates, mostly senior and major decision makers of pulp and paper industry leaders in the Asean and Asia-Pacific region, are expected to tackle issues of common concerns affecting the pulp and paper business and finalize a unified consensus and cooperative action before the end of the conference. Social activities to wind up the event such as a city tour and a friendship golf game, as well as mill visits , are part of the conference itinerary. For inquiries, call Miguel del Rosario, president, or Amando T. Rios, Pulpapel executive director, at 892-9781 to 89 local 8207.

JTI launches CII campaign in RP

JT INTERNATIONAL (JTI), THE WORLD'S third largest manufacturer of tobacco products, has embarked on a major campaign to provide specific information to consumers who might misinterpret brand elements displayed on JTI cigarette packs.

The Consumer Information Initiative (CII) campaign advises smokers not to assume that a cigarette brand is less harmful because of its taste, strength, color or because of descriptive terms like "lights" and "mild".

The information will be communicated to adult smokers via information cards at points of sale for tobacco products as well as advertisements in national newspapers.

Risk information

"Adults who choose to smoke need to have relevant information on the risks involved," JTI spokesperson Hamish Moore said. "JTI is committed to being open and transparent about its products and this campaign demonstrates that commitment."

JTI is a subsidiary of Japan Tobacco Inc, which manufactures internationally recognized cigarette brands including Camel, Winston, Mild Seven and Salem. With headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, JTI has offices in about 60 countries outside of Japan, with 23,000 employees, and sales activities in over 120 countries.

DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the General Appropriations Act, intends to apply the sum of Three million two hundred thousand pesos (Php 3,200,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Design and Development of the DTI Website. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The DTI now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOIs)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for consulting services for the development of the DTI website. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before 16 November 2007 at the DTI Bids and Awards Committee (DTI-BAC), 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail basis." The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 19 November 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of two (2) but not more than three (3) consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   - a) Applicable experience of the consultant and associates in case of joint ventures, considering both the overall experiences of the firm and the individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times when employed by other consultants (50%);
   - b) Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job vis-à-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking (40%); and
   - c) Current workload relative to capacity (10%).
4. In order to be included in the short list, a consultant must get a total score of at least 50%, with no rating below 50% for each criterion.
5. LOIs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on or before 12 NN of 16 November 2007.
6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS)*, procedure. The Technical Proposal shall have a weight of eighty percent (80%), while the Financial Proposal shall have a weight of twenty percent (20%). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
7. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the DTI Bids and Awards Committee (DTI-BAC) Secretariat at the address given below from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
8. The contract shall be completed within three (3) months.
9. The DTI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

DTI Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Mr. Maynard R. Peralta
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 751-5984; 751-0384 loc. 2604/2650
MaynardPeralta@dti.gov.ph
Fax No. 890-4870
www.dti.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—November 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
KHI DESIGN & TECHNICAL SERVICE, INC. 20/F 6788 Ayala Ave., Oledan Square, Makati City	Sadaaki Murakawa Japanese	Executive Adviser
AT & T GLOBAL NETWORK SERVICES INTERNATIONAL INC. 18/F BA Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Brian Curtis Weir American	Technical Director
CONSTRIUM INC. RC Gonzales Gate, Pag-asa Steel Cmpd., A. Rodriguez Ave., Manggahan, Pasig City	Yaser Fareed Fouad Jamoukha Jordanian	Production Manager
PHIL. ORIENTAL SPIRIT TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. 600 S & L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Jongsung Park Korean	Tour Guide
SEA POWER SHIPPING ENTERPRISES, INC. G/F J & T Bldg., R. Magsa' cor. Santol Rd., .J, Manila	Konstantinos Kokkinos Greek	Owner's Representative
NARA 9 NETWORK SYSTEM, INC. 101 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Parañaque City	Jinniu Shi Chinese	Branch Manager
SEOJUNEKOREA, INC. Rm 402 Executive Center, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Jiyoung Youn Korean	Consultant
TELETRINSIC CONTACT CENTER SOLUTION, INC. 21/F The Peak Tower, 107 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Richard Raymond Steel American	Director of Sales
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY 23F, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6619 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Lisa Mary Biddle Australian	Administrative Officer
EMPRESS DENTAL LABORATORIES, INC. 6/F Net 1 Center Bldg. 26th St. cor. 3rd Ave., Crescent Park West Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Helmut Laudehr German	Technical Expert
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phils. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Takejiro Fujita Japanese	Instrument Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phils. Bldg. 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Masahiro Takata Japanese	Instrument Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phils. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tang Yew Thong Malaysian	Piping Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phils. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Shoji Nagano Japanese	Project Engineer
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Kijoong Jung Korean	Medical Consultant
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Je Chun Woo Korean	Medical Consultant
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Won Yeong Jung Korean	Medical Consultant
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC. Suite 2501 The Orient Square, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Halim Deniz Sasal Turkish	Translator
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC. Suite 2501 The Orient Square, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Eun Sub Sihm Korean	Translator
HIGHLANDS CHINA RESTAURANT CORPORATION Wing Entertainment, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City	Tak Kuen Leung Chinese	Dimsum Chef (Consultant)
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., San Isidro, Makati City	Sukhdev Singh Indian	Operation Manager
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., San Isidro, Makati City	Gurtej Singh Samra Indian	Consultant
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., San Isidro, Makati City	Hardarshan Singh Indian	Supervisor
AJAB LENDING INVESTOR CORPORATION 33 B. Manalo St., Cubao, Quezon City	Gamanpreet Singh Gill Indian	Company Collector
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., San Isidro, Makati City	Karamjit Kaur Indian	Marketing Manager
JANU LENDING INVESTOR CO. 512 Ruby Ville Subd., Baesa, Caloocan City	Gurpreet Kaur Indian	Sales Marketing
JANU LENDING INVESTOR CO. 512 Ruby Ville Subd., Baesa, Caloocan City	Jaspreet Kaur Sidhu Indian	Credit & Collection Officer
JANU LENDING INVESTOR CO. 512 Ruby Ville Subd., Baesa, Caloocan City	Parwinder Kaur Indian	Cashier
BALJAHAR LENDING INVESTOR CORPORATION 59-K 2nd St., Kamuning, Quezon City	Ram Singh Gill Indian	Company Collector
AJAB LENDING INVESTOR CORPORATION 33-B Manalo St., Cubao, Quezon City	Gurvinder Singh Gill Indian	Company Collector
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., San Isidro, Makati City	Harvinder Singh Indian	Branch Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

por RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - November 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
November 07, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	**FANTASY WORLD THEME PARKS, AMUSEMENT & RECREATION CLUB, INC.** Brgy. Mayasang, Lemery, Batangas	**Mr. Terence Alfred Stanley/ British**	General Manager
2.	**WOOSU CNS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION** CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	**Mr. Dug Kyu Hwang/ Korean**	Material Control Manager
3.	**AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC.** Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	**Mr. Jeffery Allen Dryjanski/ American**	President & Country Manager
4.	**ITABASHI SEIKI PHILIPPINES, INC.** CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	**Mr. Yutaka Aoyama/ Japanese**	Sales Manager
5.	**HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD.** CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	**Mr. Hideki Nagai/ Japanese**	Manager – Frame QA

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI - Nov. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
National Historical Institute
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Historical Institute (NHI) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Project No. 1

DESCRIPTION	Provision of Security Services	
LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS OF SECURITY	Central Office	10
	Quezon Memorial Shrine	3
	Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine	2
	Rizal Shrine Fort Santiago	3
	Rizal Shrine Calamba	3
	Rizal Shrine Dapitan	6
	Juan Luna Shrine	1
	Baldomero Shrine	1
	Vinzons Historical Landmark	1
APPROVED BUDGET	P5,500,000.00	
CONTRACT DURATION	January 16, 2008 - January 15, 2009	
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS	December 14, 2007	

Bidding documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Pesos* (Php 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Project No. 2

DESCRIPTION	Provision of Janitorial Services	
LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS OF SECURITY	Central Office	13
	Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine	3
	Quezon Memorial Shrine	2
	Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine	2
	Rizal Shrine Fort Santiago	1
	Rizal Shrine Calamba	1
	Mabini Shrine Tanauan	1
	Leon Apacible Historical Landmark	1
	Malvar Historical landmark	2
	M. Agoncillo Hist'l Landmark	2
	R. Magsaysay Ancestral House	1
	Brillantes Ancestral House	1
APPROVED BUDGET	P3,700,000.00	
CONTRACT DURATION	January 16, 2008 to January 15, 2009	
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS	December 14, 2007	

Bidding documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Pesos* (Php 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy of their Certificate of Registration of Business Name (with original for authentication) from **November 20-22, 2007.**

Eligibility Statement Forms shall be issued from **November 20-22, 2007.** Duly Accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be placed in a sealed envelope and shall be submitted to the Chairman, NHI-BAC, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, **November 23-27, 2007.**

Bid documents will be made available only to eligible bidders for issuance upon payment of fee, at the BAC Secretariat, Manila upon presentation of the original Certificate of Eligibility.

Bid proposals shall be submitted in two (2) sealed brown envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the Chairman of the NHI Bids and Awards Committee, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. The "First Envelope" shall contain the accomplished Technical Statements. The "Second Envelope" shall contain the financial proposal.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids/eligibility statements; to declare a failure of bidding if there is, among others, reason to suspect an evident collusion among bidders resulting in no competition; to waive any required formality in the bids received; and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROSARIO V. SAPITAN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI—Nov. 7 & 10, 2007)

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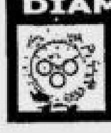

BEST PRICE
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8341572
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INVITATION TO BID

WATER DAMAGED PRILLED UREA FERTILIZER
816 Bags (40.8 MT)
Location: BREDCO, Reclamation Area, Bacolod City
Nov. 15, 2007 (Thursday)
2:00 p.m. @ MASCO Office, Makati City
For particulars, pls. contact:
Ding Placido &/or Tina Banal
@ MASCO 840-3669 / 813-0719 / 817-5428 / 817-4959

(PDI-Nov. 7, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description :	One (1) lot Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of CCTV Systems for the BSP Main Complex, per BSP Terms of Reference, Technical Specifications, Scope of Work and Bill of Quantities
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) :	P4,445,360.00
Completion Period :	Within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	6 November 2007 not later than 2:00 P.M.
2. Pre-bid Conference	10 December 2007, 3:00 P.M., MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	8 January 2008, 2:00 P.M., MR2A
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,223.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI-November 7, 2007)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone no. 082-221-9400 (local 204)/ Fax: 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) through its Bids and Awards Committee - B (BAC-B), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project :	Feasibility Study on the Use and Development of Surface Water – Tamugan River
Brief Description :	Conduct a feasibility study on the Use and Development of Tamugan River as surface water source of DCWD for a period of twenty (20) years and present the result of such to the Board of Directors and Management of the Davao City Water District.
Approved Budget For the Contract :	Php 9,942,972.86
Source of Funding :	DCWD General Funds
Contract Duration :	365 calendar days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only *five (5)* eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE)***. Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical score of **50 points** shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry **60 %** weight in the bid evaluation.

The pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	Nov. 8 – 15, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Nov. 8 – 15, 2007
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 9 – 22, 2007
4. Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 28 – Dec. 12, 2007
5. Results of Short Listing	Dec. 13 – 14, 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 3 – 21, 2007
7. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 27, 2007; 2:00 P.M.
8. Receipt & Opening of Bids	Jan. 9, 2008; 9:00 A.M.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the Asst. General Manager for Operations, Bajada, Davao City upon submission of a letter of intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee-B

(PDI - Nov. 7, 2007)

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The Public is hereby notified that the heirs of the late MARCELO M. RAMIREZ have executed an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate over a parcel of lot (known as Lot No. 21-099, consisting of 360 square meters, more or less, situated at Poblacion, Valencia, Bukidnon; lot (known as Lot No. 1-B-1-A-3, being a portion of Lot No. 1-B-1-A, Psd-101327-019433 consisting of 335 square meters, more or less, situated at Barrio of Poblacion, Municipality of Valencia; a parcel of land (known as lot no. 222-U-9-A, being a portion of lot no. 222-U-9 consisting of 5,000 square meters, more or less, situated at Poblacion, Municipality of Valencia, of the Register of Deeds of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, before Notary Public Hippocrates R. Rocina entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 475; Page No. 95; Book No. VII; Series of 2007.

(PDI–Oct. 24, 31 and Nov. 7, 2007)

More Classified Ads

Presidential Management Staff A22
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Landbank of the Philippines B7
Pete Marquez-MAGELCO B7
Department of Trade and Industry B8
DOLE-NCR B8
DOLE-Region IV B8
National Historical Institute B8

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
of the
10th Death Anniversary
of our
Beloved Dad,

MAYOR VICTOR R. MIRANDA

who joined our Lord on November 8, 1997.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the following:

10:30 a.m. at National Cathedral of the Holy Child
Taft Avenue, Manila

5:30 p.m. at St. Michael Cathedral, Philippine Independent Church
Digman, Bacoor, Cavite

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

ROSETTE, VENG, GRACE and **TENG**

Death Notice

Patrick Joseph "P.J." A. Pineda
(Nov. 8, 1982 - Nov. 4, 2007)

His remains lie in state at Bahay Karmelo, Mt. Carmel Church, Proj. 6, Q.C.

Interment will be on November 10, 2007.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you."
John 14:1-2

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die." – **John 11:25-26**

Honofre "Ofring" Florentino Regidor

of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

peacefully joined his Creator on October 22, 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Norma**, children **Dr. Christopher Noel** and wife **Dr. Pilar Bugayong**, **Marie Ann** and husband **Louie Brill (Maryland, USA)**, grandchildren **Luis Edward**, **Loren Christopher**, **Lorieann Marie**, **Linzi Lois**, brothers and sisters, **Argentina** and **Eufrocino**, **Golondrina**, **Dr. Alfredo Jr.**, **Lobella**, **Constante** and **Florie**, **Benjamin** and **Velva**, **Armagedon** and **Victoria**, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at #39 Biak na Bato St., Brgy. 2 Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

Mass will be held at the St. James Parish the Greater on November 10, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. and interment to follow at the Lagazo Memorial Park, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory on the 20th Death Anniversary of

JOSE P. FERNANDEZ

Oct. 12, 1904 – Nov. 7, 1987

His wife **Lulu**, daughter **Carmen**, son **Mickey** request relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for him on Nov. 7, 2007 at:

Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East,
Mandaluyong City .... 7:15 AM
6:15 PM

BUSINESS

Delinquent taxpayers urged to avail of amnesty

Offenders offered one last chance to settle dues, escape prosecution

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS URGED tax-delinquent companies and individuals to avail themselves of the ongoing tax amnesty, saying the program gives them a chance to come out in the open and escape prosecution.

The appeal was reiterated yesterday during a roadshow on tax amnesty in Pasay City, organized by officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Rep. Danilo Suarez, author of the Tax Amnesty law.

Proponents of the program said offenders should apply for an amnesty now, warning that the government will no longer offer tax delinquents the same opportunity in the future.

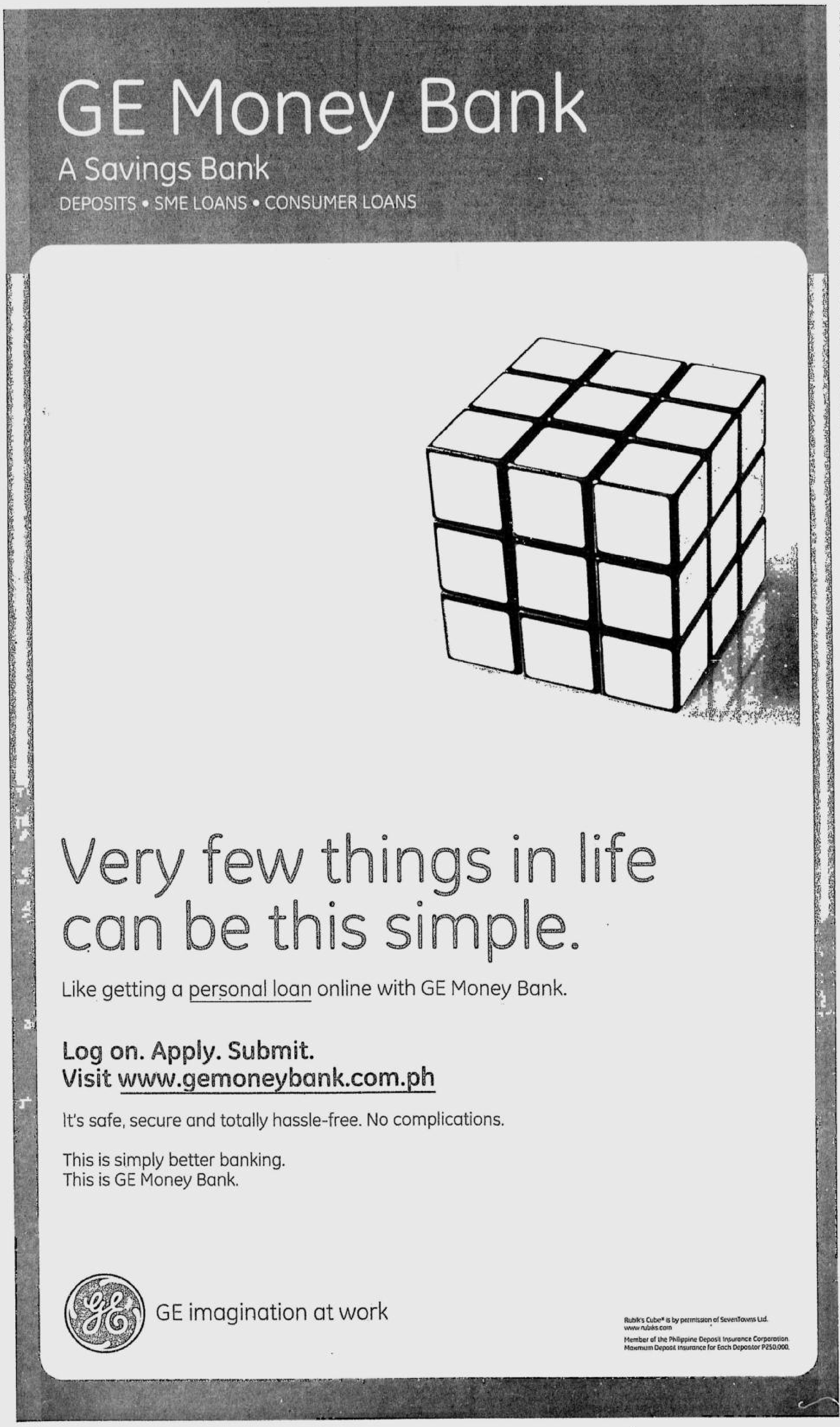
"The primary objective of the amnesty is to broaden the government's tax base and improve revenue collection in the future," Suarez said. "This will benefit taxpayers because they can finally come out clean."

Roadshows on the tax amnesty program have already been held in the cities of Baguio, San Fernando, Lucena, Tacloban, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao and General Santos. The government will also conduct roadshows in Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro cities before the end of the year.

The Tax Amnesty law, which passed both houses of Congress last Feb. 7, prohibits the implementation of another tax amnesty program after the current one lapses. This provision is intended to discourage the public from evading payment of taxes, since the government will no longer offer amnesties in the future.

Suarez is encouraging individuals and companies to apply for the amnesty immediately and not wait for the deadline set on March 5, 2008.

Under the Tax Amnesty law, qualified tax delinquents will not be prosecuted for their tax deficiencies. For those who are already charged in court, the BIR may decide to drop their tax cases.



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Energy conservation measures pushed anew

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH OIL PRICES SPIRALING ACROSS THE globe, the Department of Energy has renewed efforts toward energy conservation, calling on the people to cut down on their use of lights and air-conditioning units, as well as observe proper driving habits to save on fuel.

Oil price spikes in the world market are not likely to stop in the coming months, particularly with the advent of the winter season in the western hemisphere, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

The higher-than-expected inventory drawdown in the United States, alongside a weakening dollar, would likewise cause further hikes in world oil prices, Reyes added.

To minimize the effects of soaring oil prices on the country, Reyes said consumers and industries alike should implement various energy conservation measures.

"Owners of shopping malls and other commercial establishments can limit their use of neon lights and set the temperature levels of their air-conditioning units at 25 degrees, or at levels that do not consume excessive electricity," he said.

In 2005, during a similar price crisis situation, the implementation of energy efficiency programs in the industrial, commercial and transport sectors resulted in savings of 881,0000 barrels of fuel oil a year, he said.

"In 2005, 881,000 barrels of oil cost around P2.7 billion," Reyes said. "Now, with prices of oil hovering at $96 per barrel, those 881,000 barrels of oil cost us a staggering P3.6 billion."

"If not for the present strength of the Philippine peso, the spiraling prices of oil in the world market would have hit us even harder. Thus, we must find ways to make more efficient use of our energy."

The transport sector, including private vehicle owners, would play a crucial role in the government's overall energy conservation program, he said.

One solution is to accelerate the implementation of higher blends of biofuels in gasoline and diesel, he said.

SM holdings firm to fold in China malls

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE FAMILY OF MALL CZAR HENRY SY may soon transfer its China malls to listed firm SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SM Prime) as part of the mall operator's growth strategy.

The Sy family's companies—Shoemart Inc. and SM Investments Corp.—respectively have a 47.7 percent and 21.3 percent stake in SM Prime.

SM Prime is currently studying the possible acquisition of three malls owned by the Sy family in China. Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. and Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. will act as its joint financial advisers for the proposed plan.

"The Sy siblings are supportive of [the plan]," SM Prime president Hans Sy said Monday night at the sidelines of the SMX Convention Center launch at the Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City. "Once SM Prime takes over our investments there ... we would be able to raise capital much faster and much cheaper than if we were to do it in China ourselves right now."

The Sy family has acquired a fourth location for another mall in China—a seven-hectare property in Chongquing, Sichuan province.

Sy said he has also consulted with some of SM Prime's investors and shareholders and they agreed that the China acquisition story was "inevitable."

He was cautioned however by the same investors and shareholders against "recklessly expanding."

Hans Sy said SM Prime, once it has finalized its decision to acquire the Sy family's China malls by the end of this month or early next year, intends to grow its malls in China one at a time each year.

As the dominant mall developer operating 28 malls nationwide, SM Prime is now expanding its branches on a smaller scale, in terms of floor area, outside Metro Manila.

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Honda, via its R&D, is the only carmaker that performs actual crash tests for motoring journalists to witness

Park, drive and crash!

By Tessa R. Salazar

HE ISN'T JUST SWIFT. HE'S precise. And wouldn't we wish we were a bit just like him in our everyday struggles in the chaotic streets of Metro Manila.

His name, fittingly so, is Russ Swift, and he is a world-class precision driver and Guinness record holder. Russ can execute the tightest "J" turns and parallel park in the blink of an eye. He can spin a car into a parking space just 33 cm longer than the vehicle.

At the Honda Automobile R&D center in Tochigi, each of the automotive writers present didn't dare do a Swift-like parking maneuver. Instead, they did somewhat the opposite: park a vehicle equipped with a park assist system with computer-assisted steering and voice guidance, which effectively takes the guesswork out of parking.

Parallel-assist parking

Here's how the "spoon-fed" parallel-assist parking works. Stop on the nose of the parked rear vehicle when it is aligned with the indicator on the left front door lining. Then turn on the parallel-assist switch.

The driver moves the car slowly forward until the voice guide asks him or her to stop the car.

While backing, the driver is asked to keep the position of the steering wheel. The voice guide will tell the driver when to stop. He or she is then asked to turn the steering wheel into the center position to make the precise position in backing the car. Voila!

This same program also does reverse parking. And this does away with an expensive rear monitor. Such technologies have been at use already in many Honda cars in Japan. This system would not be introduced in the Philippines in the near future.

Glow in the dark

Though it does look like a ghost glowing in the dark, it's actually a living, breathing pedestrian reflected in front of a car in the dead of night. By reflecting images obtained from two far infrared cameras positioned in the lower section of the front bumper in the heads up display, this visibility safety system introduced in the Japanese car Legend in 2004 supports the driver's night-time vision. When the system detects pedestrians, it cautions the driver via an audio warning and visual enhancement frame.

Journalists were then brought to the world's first indoor, omni-directional real-world crash test facility in the Tochigi R&D center that Honda built in 2000.

Here, scribes were able to witness an actual head-on collision between a CR-V and an Accord (complete with crash test dummies) at 60 kph. Ugh! Even for crash-test dummies, the postcrash details are quite gory but suffice to say, based on the tests, the occupants will survive albeit with some injuries. One crash was enough, though. The facility also conducts collision tests between vehicles at various angles, in addition to fixed barrier tests.

Crash dummy

Honda has even developed a pedestrian crash dummy that reproduces the kinetics of the human body during car-to-pedestrian collisions to identify the parts of the car body most often involved in the infliction of injuries.

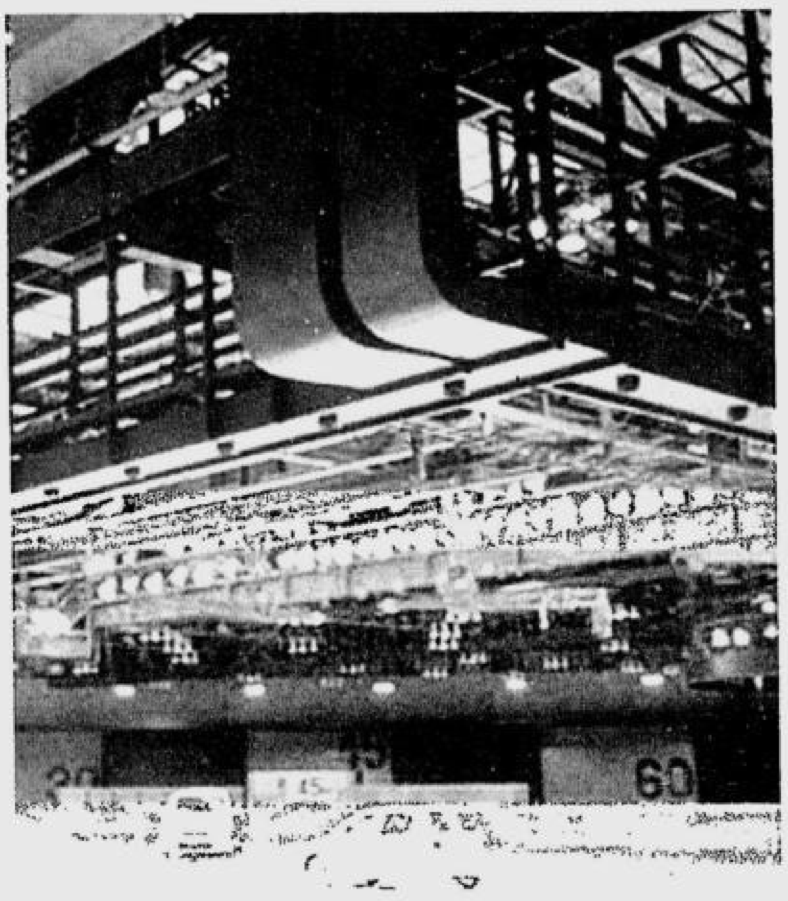
And we have to thank this hapless dummy for making it possible for the carmaker to introduce recent safety designs such as the pop-up hood and the pedestrian injury reduction body to reduce head injuries during collisions.

Actuators "pop up" the rear portion of the engine hood at approximately 10 cm when three sensors located in the front bumper and a vehicle speed sensor determine a collision with a pedestrian has occurred. This provides a space between the rigid engine components and the hood, reducing head injuries to pedestrians. Again, this technology had been first incorporated in the Legend that is being sold in Europe.

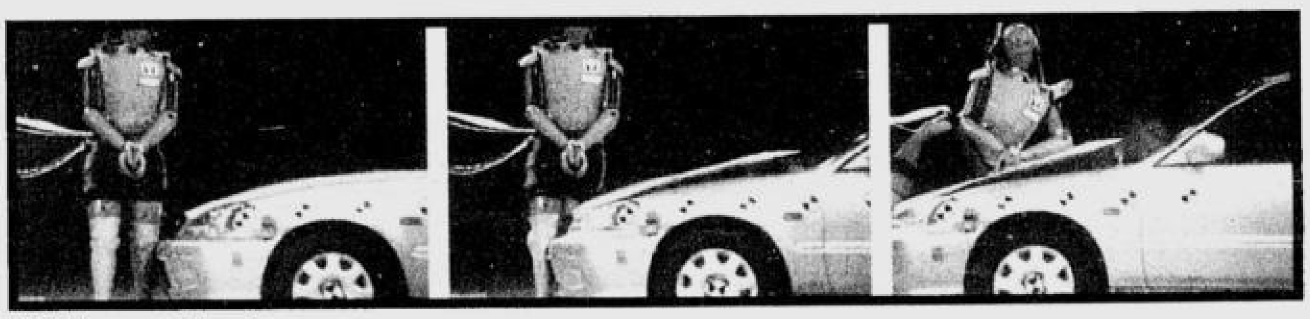
Bikers' airbags

Motorcyclists plunging face first into airbags? Sounds loony, but it may help save countless lives. And yes, Honda is taking this seriously and has developed the world's first airbag system for mass production in motorcycles, and can help lessen the severity of head injuries caused by motorcycle frontal collisions.

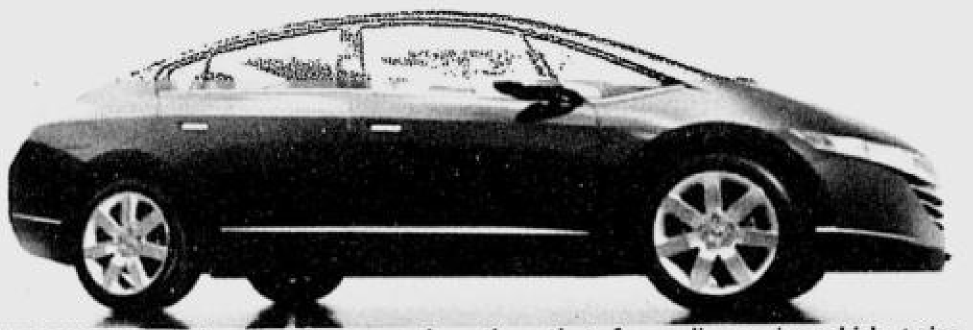
Airbag-equipped motorcycles have been on sale in the United States since September 2006, in Europe in October 2006 and in Japan in June 2007.



THIS car-to-car crash test facility shows us why the Japanese don't shout 'banzai!' when driving.



TEST for pop up hood



WITH ENERGY efficiency of 60 percent, three times that of a gasoline engine vehicle, twice that of a hybrid vehicle and 10 percent better than the current FCX, experts claimed.

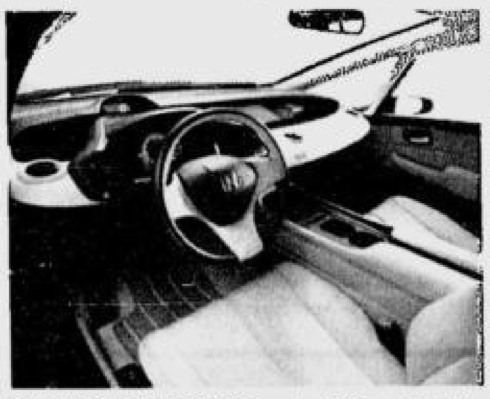
A short trip in a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle

IT'S NOT A BULLET TRAIN. IT'S NOT A jet either. But it sure felt like both.

Automotive writers were treated to a short but intense ride behind the wheel of a short-nosed, low-riding Honda Hydrogen FCX concept car: the compact, highly efficient Honda FC Stack.

The big-bodied vehicle offered a comfortably large cabin as this driver—with three burly passengers—spurted onto a predetermined track for several rounds. We measured the acceleration at 0 to 100 kph in 10 seconds. For an electric motor with a huge sedan body carrying four passengers, this was quite an achievement.

The vehicle is equipped with a V Flow fuel cell platform, its fuel cell stack arranged in a center tunnel layout. This has allowed designers to create a low-riding, sedan form that experts noted would have been difficult to achieve in a conventional fuel cell vehicle.



WITH PLANT-BASED materials resistant to sunlight damage

Difference

And what's the difference between this and the current FCX FC Stack? This new fuel stack model is 20 percent smaller and 30 percent lighter than the current FCX FC stack, but its power output is 14kW greater.

The drive motor has been positioned coaxially with the gearbox for a more compact design, with an output increased by 15 kW. Overall, the powerplant is 180 kg lighter than that of the current FCX and about 40 percent smaller in volume.

Its vertical flow design allows gravity to assist in discharging the water that is produced, resulting in a major improvement in water drainage, a key to a high-efficiency fuel stack performance. For this reason, it now has stable power generation under a broad range of conditions, and higher output from a smaller package.

Durable

To complete the environment-friendly theme, inside, the seat upholstery and door linings are made of plant-based materials from Honda's Bio Fabric, which is also claimed to be durable and resistant to sunlight damage.

Other improvements from the current model are its shift-by-wire and a newly designed instrument panel with easy-to-read display of the hydrogen fuel consumption. This new model is set for release in 2008 (but not yet in the Philippines, sigh).

Tessa R. Salazar

DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS

Beep-Beep Beep-Beep Yeah!

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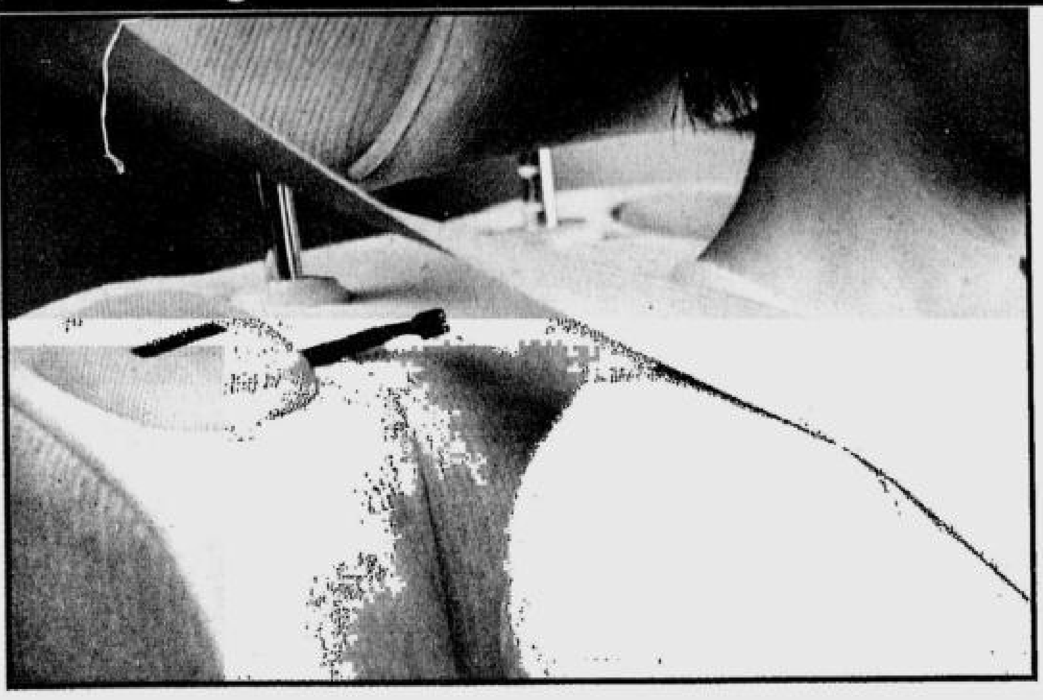
You are so drunk even your car won't give you the chance to drive

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban



WITH SEVERAL alcohol odor sensors (seen here behind the driver's neck), the car could now decide whether the driver is fit to get behind the wheel.

IF ANTIDRUNK-DRIVING MESSAGES are not convincing enough and authorities have too little manpower and not enough infrastructure to catch every drunk driver on the road, then this combination of technologies that Nissan will soon put on its cars should probably do it.

Imagine a car that won't run the moment its sensors detect high amount of alcohol in the driver's perspiration or whose seatbelt that tightens up in order to jolt its drowsy driver back into consciousness.

"The car is part of an ongoing Nissan program for the prevention of drunk driving and was developed as an exploratory platform to showcase breakthrough technologies that could potentially be applied to Nissan's future production cars," informed Kazuhiro Doi, GM of Nissan's Technology Marketing Department.

Doi added that among the reasons for this program is the carmaker's aim to halve (in Japan) the number of traffic fatalities or serious injuries involving a Nissan vehicle by 2015 compared with the level in 1995.

According to Japan's statistics, there are 1,391 reported cases of fatalities caused by drunk driving in 1995.

Equipped a Fuga

To show how these technologies work, Nissan equipped its Fuga luxury sedan.

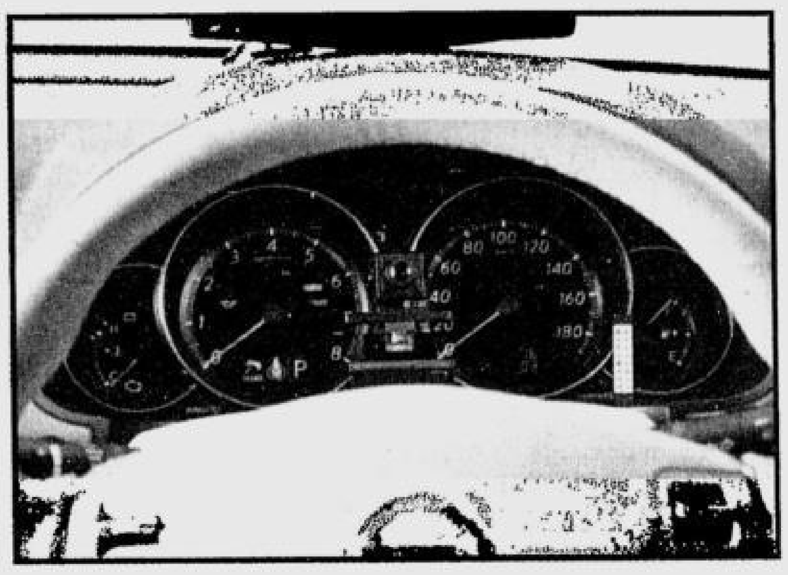
The only notable differences this Fuga has when compared to its production model counterpart are the tiny camera located on the instrument panel (behind the steering wheel) and the tube-like alcohol odor sensors located in the front seats (protruding behind the driver's neck).

The rest of the sensors are discreetly hidden from view.

In fact, there are three more sensors inside the car: one in front passenger seat, another in the center rear seat and third, built in to the gear shift knob.

Unlike the other sensors that detect alcohol in the cabin air, the one located in the gear shift detect the presence of alcohol in the perspiration of the driver's palm as he or she attempts to start operating the car.

"When the alcohol-level detected is above the predetermined threshold, the system automatically locks the transmission, immobilizing the car," Doisaid.



THIS Fuga's instrument panel has one special addition: a small camera that detects the driver's state of sobriety.

Voice warning

There is also a voice warning as well as message alert—via the car's navigation system—that tells the occupant about the presence of high alcohol content in the cabin air and in the perspiration of the driver.

These sensors work in tandem with the camera, which is actually part of a facial recognition system that is calibrated to monitor the driver's state of consciousness through the blinking of the eyes.

When the system detects signs of drowsiness, a voice and message alert is also triggered via the navigation system.

This system is also connected to the seatbelt mechanism, which when activated, will tighten up to jolt the driver back into consciousness.

Steering behavior

As if these sensors were not enough, the car is also equipped with a monitor that checks the driver's steering behavior.

If the car veers away the lane or of the car is already zigzagging the road, voice and message alerts are issued via the navigation system.

If the warnings are still being ignored, the car's seatbelt will also tighten to get the driver's attention.

"Indeed, Nissan is taking holistic approach toward safety that extends beyond the technology built into its vehicles. With some more finetuning, expect these technologies in all future Nissan models," Doi said .

New Chevrolet Optra ... new look, more charm

CHEVROLET'S ATTRACTIVE, SPORTY and outstanding 1.6 Optra Sedan and Wagon have been upgraded with a fresh look and equipped with new features to give it more sophistication on the road.

The Chevrolet Optra exudes a fusion of versatility and style and sports a more dynamic and more striking exterior with its newly sculpted features with its new facelift, giving it a look that's more modern and sporty. The Chevrolet Optra's new look includes a sleeker headlamp and 15" alloy wheel design with improved chrome grille and chrome inserts on its side protector moldings. This chic machine also sports power-side mirrors with stylish side-turn signals, a new circular foglamp design and grip-type door handles.

OPTRA Sedan

Luxurious features

The interior of the Chevrolet Optra Sedan and Wagon also offers luxurious features, with comfort and convenience in mind. It is beautifully crafted with a superb steering wheel with power steering function, mounted stereo controls, multitude of compartments, vanity mirrors with cover, immobilizer, power windows and power adjustable side mirrors. It also has 60/40 rear seat split with center armrest and cupholders, storage areas, cooled glove box, new side door panels, and a 2-DIN stereo with radio, 6-disc CD / MP3 player with an auxiliary (AUX) port for connecting other external gadgets such as iPod.

Driving experience and safety are the two most important features of the Chevrolet Optra. This upgrade doesn't diminish in any way the advantages of this vehicle that has made it popular in the first place, such as its Total Noise Reduction System which gives it a quiet ride.

Power comes from a 1.6 L 4-cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine that generates 110 PS and a maximum torque of 150 Nm. The Chevrolet Optra Sedan and Wagon use 40 percent stronger sheet metal for a quieter, safer interior for driver and passengers. They also feature the unique Euro-Ride Tuning Suspension, the secret behind the car's superb handling in all road conditions.

Advanced safety features

The Chevrolet Optra Sedan and Wagon's advanced safety features like dual airbags, standard ABS (antilock brake system) and 4-wheel disc brakes guarantee maximum protection as you cruise through the streets of the bustling metro or serene suburbs.

The Chevrolet Optra has been one of the most popular sedans in the market for the past four years and has been one of Chevrolet's best selling vehicle. It ranks high in product quality and consumers' trustworthiness and now, most importantly, improvements have been included without adding a whole lot to the price—more features and value-added benefits.

Enjoy your choices of the new Chevrolet Optra Sedan and Wagon.

Optra Sedan 1.6 LS manual is priced at P759,000 while Optra Sedan 1.6 LS automatic costs P799,000. Optra Wagon 1.6 LS manual costs P829,000 while Optra Wagon 1.6 LS automatic is priced at P869,000.

OPTRA Wagon

The new Nissan Serena now in showrooms

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES Inc. reestablishes its presence in the high-end van segment with the release of the new Nissan Serena. Starting the second week of November, customers will be invited to step into the good life and experience the new Serena at the Nissan dealerships in Metro Manila. These dealerships are Mantrade Development Corp., Nissan Manila Inc., Nissan Gallery Ortigas, Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue, Nissan United Nations Avenue, Nissan North Edsa, Nissan Westgate Alabang, Nissan Shaw Center Mandaluyong and Nissan Southwoods.

Themed as "A good life at the beach," loads of exiting prizes and activities are in store for the whole family.

Interior, exterior

Designed to exemplify today's modern lifestyle, the new Serena offers uncompromising luxury, comfort and versatility to meet the needs of the driver and passenger alike. Merging the convenience of modern technology with a slice of old world charm, the new Serena's roomy interior exemplifies a contemporary living space while its elegantly crafted wood fascia hints of classic architecture.

The exterior of the Serena retains its sharp yet simple silhouette as the redesigned front and rear bumpers express both "luxury" and "performance" in perfect balance.

Reintroduction

"We are pleased to reintroduce the Nissan Serena to the Philippine market. This dynamic and versatile addition to the NMPI lineup offers the convenience of a van and the performance and handling of a passenger car," says Steven Hu, assistant vice president of Sales and Marketing at NMPI.

"The roominess and flexibility of the new Serena fits the active lifestyle of the modern Filipino family," Hu adds.

The new Serena characterizes the active and modern lifestyle of today. Its sophistication and versatility adapts perfectly to any destination or adventure for the road ahead.

NMPI will release two variants of the Serena, a 250L Luxury model and a 250E Elegance model, made available in four appealing exterior colors. Test drive the new Nissan Serena and experience the luxury and comfort at your fingertips.

THE NEW Nissan Serena: the modern lifestyle van

How to save gas

THE PRICE OF OIL IS AT ITS HIGHEST, so how do you save on gas?

All-Filipino company Seaoil Philippines has these tips:

- **Plan every trip, combining errands if you can.** Short trips taken from a cold start use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip that covers the same distance when the engine is warm.
- **Avoid peak-hour rush.** You spend less time getting stuck in traffic and consume less fuel too.
- **Walk all short distances.** Avoid driving if your destination is within walking distance. Not only do you save on fuel, it is a good form of exercise too.
- **Try carpooling.** Take turns to drive with your friends or colleagues. This way you save on gas and maintenance costs.
- **Check for proper tire pressure and wheel alignment.** More power is required to overcome underinflated tires and improper alignment, and this in turn wastes fuel.
- **Keep your engine properly tuned and regularly replace your air filter.** Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car fuel mileage and keeps impurities from damaging your car engine.
- **Load up at night and tighten up your fuel cap.** Gasoline evaporates in hot weather and from your fuel tank if the cap is loose.
- **Drive smoothly.** Accelerate gently, brake gradually and avoid hard stops. Aggressive driving wastes fuel. Sensible driving does not only save you money but also make you safe.
- **If you are thinking of buying or changing to a new vehicle, select a more fuel-efficient vehicle that will meet your needs.** Older vehicles, big SUVs (sport utility vehicles) and those with six or eight cylinders consume more fuel so know what you're buying.
- **Finally, gas up at Seaoil.** Seaoil has the most value-for-money gasoline and diesel in the market today. Its G5 Extreme, for instance, has a high octane rating yet is sold at a cheaper price compared to other brands. For diesel buyers, Seaoil's Loyal Biyahero discount lane is open to all cars and not just to public utility vehicles. And Seaoil's pumps are calibrated daily to ensure accuracy. So if you want to get more value from you fuel, go to Seaoil today.

THE 2008 TOYOTA Prius hybrid in silver pine mica and super white.

Tomorrow's car right here right now

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE INEVITABLE CAME TO MY garage late last Tuesday in the form of a charcoal gray, four-door hatch. The nondescript car mutely crept up the incline of the driveway and powered down in almost complete silence; such a voiceless way to announce an arrival of such significance. I stared at it for a while, trying to grasp the gravity and consequence of this automobile. And in the quiet darkness of the garage, I could swear all the other cars were staring too.

This is a car that for all intents and purposes, spells the obsolescence of almost every other car on Philippine roads today. Over a million units of this very model and its similarly powered brethren inconspicuously ply roads around the globe, leaving in their wake reduced fuel consumption and some of the lowest motor vehicle carbon emissions ever. The hybrids have landed and the 2007 Toyota Prius is at the tip of the spear.

Old news

Hybrids and their symbiotic petroleum and electric engines are old news in the rest of the world but only a handful of these cars are in the country. Having already tested hybrids at both Honda's Tochigi R&D and Toyota's Fuji Speedway, one can only imagine my excitement for a test drive in the Philippine setting.

Your initial moments in a Prius cockpit can be a little unnerving. First of all, there is no physical key to speak of, just a plastic transponder that goes into a slot on the dashboard. Next is the start button one presses to bring the electrical and engine systems to life, a process that is uncannily silent and uneventful. It is in fact easy to forget the Prius is on at all, as the electric engine does not have the usual violent ignition process of traditional powerplants.

Info center

Secondary systems such as the air conditioning and the audio are accessed primarily through a centrally located screen with touch interface. This colored monitor also serves as your information center regarding the status of each of the vehicle's engines, the massive 168-bank NiMH (nickel metal hydride) battery, trip information and estimated fuel efficiency.

Placing the dash mounted shift lever in gear gets the hybrid moving and things only get better when the car takes to the road. While some will think that the need for fuel efficiency and dramatic emission reduction take the punch out of this car, two minutes in this car will make you think twice about such an assessment.

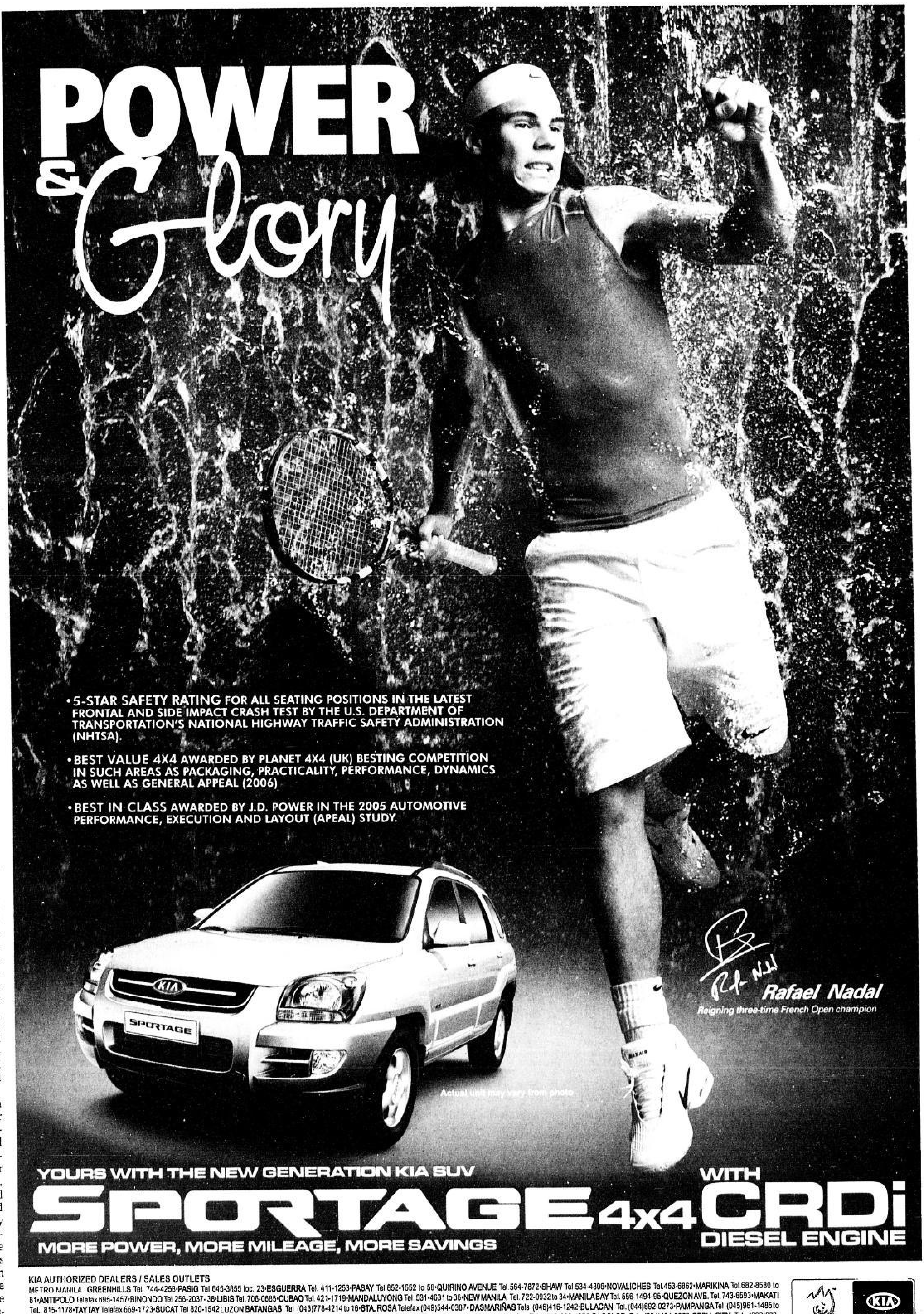
Acceleration with conviction comes from the massive 400 Nm of torque available to the electric motor from the very bottom of the rpm band. Think of direct drive electric motors found on battery-powered remote-controlled cars and you will begin to understand the off the line acceleration of this Prius. Notable too is the way that the two motors seamlessly integrate with each other, handing off powering duties in a manner that is almost indiscernible to the driver.

Road feel and traction are generally similar to other passenger automobiles with the exception of a sensation of weight that lends an air of stability to the Prius, especially at speed. At somewhere around the century and a half-speed mark, this hybrid is comfortably planted and feels like it could keep going all day. The funny thing is that it probably could.

Fuel efficiency

While manufacturer-supplied fuel-efficiency numbers are often too incredible to believe, this particular car's actual consumption makes one think twice about being too critical. Despite over 450 kilometers of standstill traffic and rocketing, flat-out on empty toll roads, the fuel indicator shows that a little more than three fourths tank remains. That, ladies and gentlemen, spells fuel efficiency in any language. Guiltless driving pleasure can be had after all.

Capturing the automotive spirit of this remarkable little Toyota has honestly been difficult because of all the overwhelming innovation. So it must be boiled down to its basics so to speak. Underneath all the gadgets and gimmickry, cars are all about the driving experience. And at the end of the day, some things about the Prius just make you want to drive it over and over and over again. That's what separates great cars from the good ones.



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- BEST VALUE 4X4 AWARDED BY PLANET 4X4 (UK) BESTING COMPETITION IN SUCH AREAS AS PACKAGING, PRACTICALITY, PERFORMANCE, DYNAMICS AS WELL AS GENERAL APPEAL (2006)
- BEST IN CLASS AWARDED BY J.D. POWER IN THE 2005 AUTOMOTIVE PERFORMANCE, EXECUTION AND LAYOUT (APEAL) STUDY.

Rafael Nadal
Reigning three-time French Open champion

Actual unit may vary from photo

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Evo X an exciting ride and drive

THE LANCER Evolution X offers bar-raising performance.
PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

NEVER EAT A FULL MEAL BEfore you board a Lancer Evolution X with a Mitsubishi Motors Corp. test driver at the wheel. This was what we learned during the handling demo organized by MMC at a handling test track after lunch and a tour of MMC's Okazaki, Nagoya plant.

Prior to the handling demo, we were allowed to take the Evo X for a brief test drive. The four motoring journalists from the Philippines (with this columnist as the only female) were divided into pairs and took turns driving the 2008 Lancer and the Evo X one lap each around MMC's oval test track in Okazaki. We also got to drive the i-MiEV (Mitsubishi innovative Electric Vehicle) around a slalom course on a smaller test track.

Whoa!

Test-driving the high-performance turbocharged AWD 2008 Lancer Evo, one of the 10 fastest cars in the world, was to be the highlight of our sojourn to Japan for the 40th Tokyo Motor Show. But whoa! We were told to limit driving speeds to 120 kph. And to make sure that we observed the speed limit, a Japanese MMC engineer sat in the back seat each time out.

We did not protest, but perhaps the Evo X itself did, in a manner of speaking. We noticed that the new 2.0-liter 4B11 Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control system) engine with aluminum cylinder block and twin scroll turbocharger was revving by itself as if to protest the placid pace and daring us to make max use of its capability.

Shift modes

Could it be because of the shift mode we were in? The Evo X's 6-speed Twin Clutch SST (Sequential Sportshift Transmission) has three shift modes: Normal, which upshifts early for fuel economy; Sport, which holds gears longer and delivers quicker shifts; and S-Sport mode, which holds gears much longer, downshifts more aggressively and changes gears vigorously. Dual-clutch technology, which heretofore was only offered by Audi, changes gears faster and more smoothly than a jerky single-clutch sequential manual.

On the track, the Evo X reached 120 kph almost immediately and seemed eager to go faster but the presence of the MMC engineer in the back seat made me lift my foot off the accelerator when the needle reached 150 kph. Although MMC has not yet announced the engine specs and top speed, the US specs are expected to be 295 hp/6,500 rpm and 300 lb-ft/4,000 rpm max torque. The aluminum block, the first ever in an Evo since the model's 1992 debut, reduces the engine's weight by 28 lb and not only results in improved fuel efficiency, it also helps lower the car's center of gravity and thereby increases its stability on the road.

THE 2008 Lancer, a more sedate version of the Evo X

"AT THE WHEEL of a right-hand-drive Evo X"

All-wheel control

The new Evo is taller and wider than the 2006 Evo IX and has a wider track and wheelbase. Its platform, the same as the normally aspirated 2008 Lancer and the Outlander SUV, is more rigid in torsion than the outgoing Evo, which translates into faster cornering speeds. Together with S-AWC (Super All-Wheel Control), the stiffer chassis guarantees more agility with more grip and traction. S-AWC integrates drive-torque distribution, braking (Brembo brakes on 18-inch Enkel wheels) and the rear differential's active yaw control to influence the car's cornering performance.

Active Stability Control (ASC), Mitsubishi's new electronic safety system, can be switched off in the Evo X for track usage. I forgot to ask the MMC test driver whether he switched off the ASC before he took us on that handling demo run at breakneck speed on a rally-like test course. It was the most exciting ride of my life since it was the first time I was buffeted by G-forces so many times. I sat in the front Recaro seat with my crash helmet almost coming off as the Evo X, with superb self-assurance, rocketed up and down the handling track two times.

Red line

On the first lap, the MMC driver used the center console's automatic transmission; on the second lap, the manual transmission's steering column-mounted paddle shifters. Although I was unable to read the speedometer because of the roller coaster ride, I managed to see the tach needle often swinging close to the red line. All throughout while it was being flung around, the Evo X retained its composure and felt utterly safe and capable.

At the end of the Evo X's handling run, those seated in the back felt so dizzy and nauseous that they chose not to join the off-road demo of the Delica D:5. It was then that we realized the wisdom of not having a full meal before a handling demo of the Evo X. Nonetheless, the demo proved that Mitsubishi's cutting-edge technologies—4B11 MIVEC aluminum engine, twin scroll turbocharger, Twin Clutch SST, S-AWC, active yaw control and ASC—work together smoothly to make the Lancer Evolution X the best rally-bred sport sedan ever produced yet.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: My other car is a bicycle.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams
The 4th Asia Motorcycle Technician Skills Contest
October 24, 2007 Honda Philippines Inc. Tanauan City, Batangas, Philippines
Congratulations!
Honda Technicians
TEAM PHILIPPINES
Mitzheval Condino
2007 National MC Skills Contest Champion
POWERCYCLE, INC.
Blas Dimaano
2006 National MC Skills Contest Champion
STAR HONDA, INC.
Third from left Mr. Shuso Ueda GM MC Customer Service, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. awards the trophy and prizes to Mr. Mitzheval and Mr. Blas
Grand Champion
Team Philippines was named as the Grand Champion in the recently concluded 4th Asia Motorcycle Technician Skills Contest conducted by Honda Motor Co. and Asian Honda. Filipino technicians representing Honda Philippines bested 7 other Asian countries in this prestigious biennial event namely- Korea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. After topping the theoretical and practical skills categories, Team Philippines received the highest honor of the competition - the Gold Award, proving that Honda Phils. Technicians are truly world class.
Team Vietnam (1st Runner Up) with Mr. Shigeru Yamada Asian Honda Exec. Coordinator
Theoretical Examination
Practical Examination
Team Indonesia (2nd Runner Up) with Mr. Reynaldo Gener HPI VP

TRANSPORT TRIVIA By Emman Cena

THE ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY 'Hapi Bus' that runs on compressed natural gas (CNG)
FILE PHOTO

Of CNG, Hapi Bus and a pollution-free road

TWO WEEKS AGO THE first fleet of "clean" buses has started rolling on the roads of Metro Manila. Dubbed as the "Hapi Bus," the flamboyantly painted vehicles have started plying Manila/Cubao to Batangas/Laguna routes.

So what is the "IT" in these buses?

The buses run on compressed natural gas (CNG) supplied by the Philippines' own gas fields off Palawan. CNG is indigenous to the country, extracted from the Malampaya gas fields and transported via a pipeline to Batangas.

According to consumerenergycenter.org, compared to gasoline, compressed natural gas (CNG) is cleaner, less expensive, and generally comes from domestic reserves.

The CNG, unknown to many, is a clear, odorless and noncorrosive gas. It is made by compressing natural gas (which is mainly composed by methane (CH_4), ranging from 70 to 98 percent). Most natural gas comes from three types of wells: natural gas-and-condensate wells, oil wells and coal bed methane wells.

But what are the drawbacks of using CNG?

A series of tests done revealed that those vehicles run on CNG require a greater amount of space for fuel storage than conventional gasoline powered vehicles. Since it is a compressed gas, instead of a liquid-like gasoline, CNG takes up more space. This makes it difficult to design smaller vehicles.

CNG involves technology used in countries such as the United States, France, Argentina, India and Pakistan. Due to skyrocketing fuel prices around the world, compressed natural gas has been used in light-duty passenger vehicles and pickup trucks, medium-duty delivery trucks, and in transit and school buses.

For the record, CNG has been made mandatory for all public transport in the city of New Delhi in India.

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • to be young • To be you!

LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

KITKAT RODRIGO

2bU! goes to CamSur Part Two

This week we give you a crash course on wakeboarding. Be inspired by the pros who ruled the boards at the 2nd Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals Competition, speak wakeboarding lingo with our glossary, absorb tips from CWC's resident pro and check out some awesome lomographs from the member of LomoManila who gave wakeboarding a shot too.

JIEL LIJANO

And because you can't spend all your time in the water, find out what else you can do at the CWC and where you can rest your weary head when dry land comes calling.

2bU! doesn't want you to just read. We want you to experience how much fun Camarines Sur can be, so we're giving away weekend trips to CWC to five lucky readers. Ride on!

Wakeboarding 101

Wakeboarding: A surface water sport developed from a combination of water skiing, snow boarding and surfing techniques

Cable wakeboarding: Refers to riding at a cable park instead of behind a boat

Cable park: A place where a series of tower-connected mechanical cables pulls the rider around the water. CWC and the older Lago de Oro in Calatagan, Batangas are the only two cable parks in the Philippines.

Wakeboard: The board a wakeboarder rides, usually between 1.2-1.5 meters in length and a little more than a foot wide. Bindings are attached on the board to hold the rider's feet in place.

Wakeskating: A combination of wakeboarding and skateboarding. The board doesn't have bindings and is usually smaller.

Rider: another term for wakeboarder

Wake: The wave created behind the boat which is used by a wakeboarder as jumping-off or slide-off point

Regular foot: Wakeboarders who ride with their left foot forward on their wakeboard

Goofy foot: Wakeboarders who ride with their right foot forward

Heelside: The side of the board closest to the rider's heels. Most riders are more comfortable with this edge at the beginning.

Toeside: The side of the board closest to the rider's toes

Groms: Very young riders, usually preteens and younger

Flip: In wakeboarding, it's used to define a tip over tail upside down rotation.

Invert: When the rider goes upside down while in the air

Switch: Term for riding the board backwards from the rider's normal stance

Spin: When the rider and board rotate around on a vertical axis

Rail: A long rail made of metal, PVC, or wood used by a wakeboarder or wakeskater for sliding

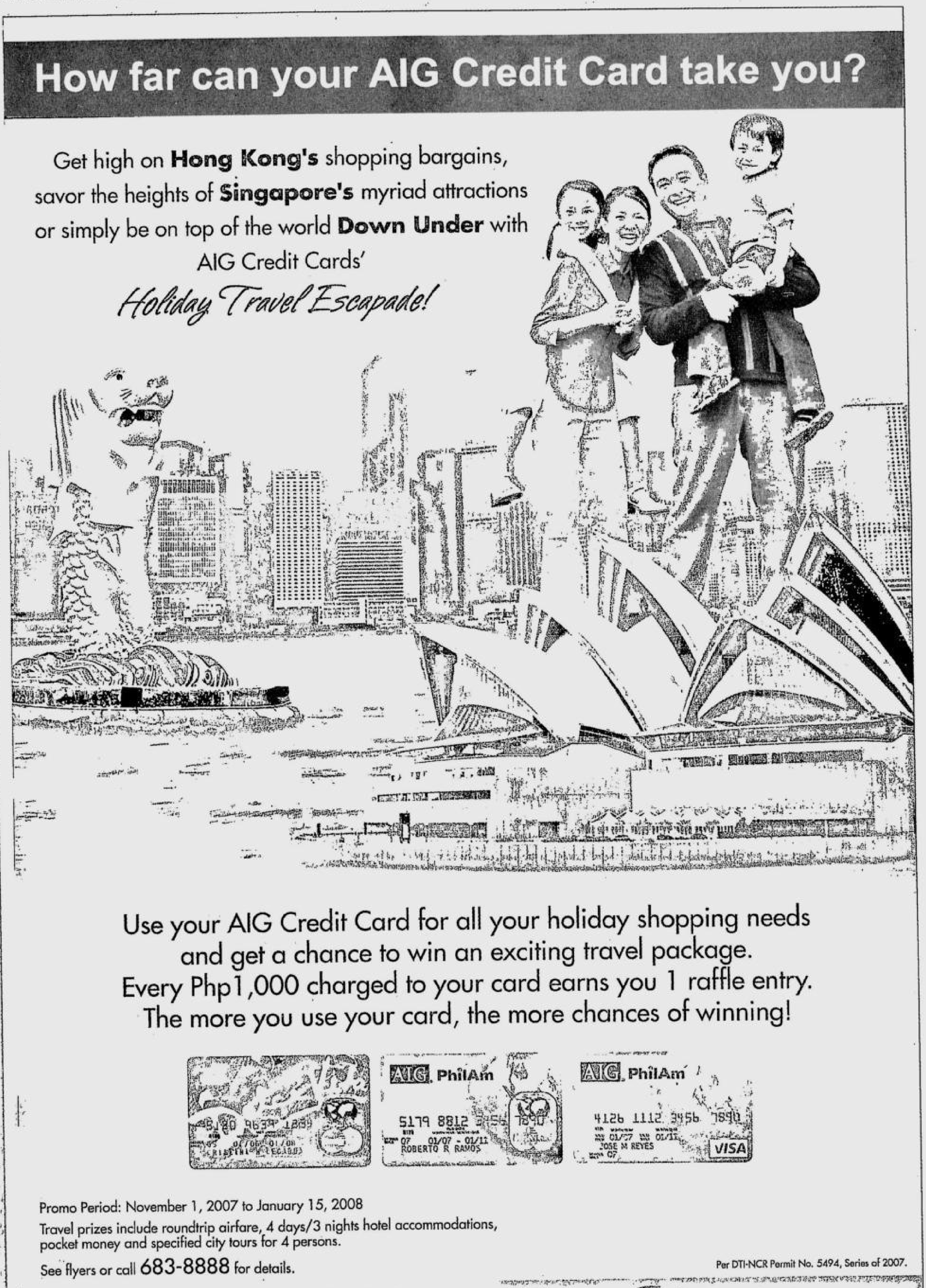
Grab: A trick done when the rider reaches down to the board and clasps it with his or her hand while in the air

Raley-based trick: A series of tricks where the rider allows his or her body to extend backwards while the board catches air over the wake and lands on the opposite side of the wake

Trick: General term for the various stunts done by riders on the surface of the water or in the air

Wipe out: When a rider falls on a wakeboard

Set: A wakeboarder taking his or her turn on the water. Each time you ride, you've "taken a set."



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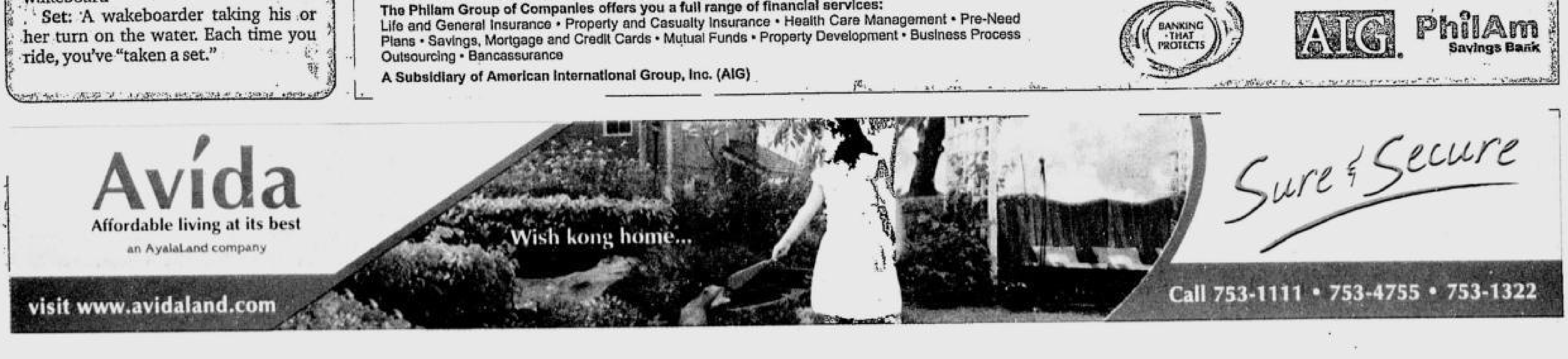

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**
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This week we give you a crash course on wakeboarding. Be inspired by the pros who ruled the boards at the 2nd Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals Competition, speak wakeboarding lingo with our glossary, absorb tips from CWC's resident pro and check out some awesome lomographs from the member of LomoManila

who gave wakeboarding a shot too.

And because you can't spend all your time in the water, find out what else you can do at the CWC and where you can rest your weary head when dry land comes calling.

2bU! doesn't want you to just read. We want you to experience how much fun Camarines Sur can be, so we're giving away weekend trips to CWC to five lucky readers. Ride on!

Wakeboarding 101

Wakeboarding: A surface water sport developed from a combination of water skiing, snow boarding and surfing techniques

Cable wakeboarding: Refers to riding at a cable park instead of behind a boat

Cable park: A place where a series of tower-connected mechanical cables pulls the rider around the water. CWC and the older Lago de Oro in Calatagan, Batangas are the only two cable parks in the Philippines.

Wakeboard: The board a wakeboarder rides, usually between 1.2-1.5 meters in length and a little more than a foot wide. Bindings are attached on the board to hold the rider's feet in place.

Wakeskating: A combination of wakeboarding and skateboarding. The board doesn't have bindings and is usually smaller.

Rider: another term for wakeboarder

Wake: The wave created behind the boat which is used by a wakeboarder as jumping-off or slide-off point

Regular foot: Wakeboarders who ride with their left foot forward on their wakeboard

Goofy foot: Wakeboarders who ride with their right foot forward

Heelside: The side of the board closest to the rider's heels. Most riders are more comfortable with this edge at the beginning.

Toeside: The side of the board closest to the rider's toes

Groms: Very young riders, usually preteens and younger

Flip: In wakeboarding, it's used to define a tip over tail upside down rotation.

Invert: When the rider goes upside down while in the air

Switch: Term for riding the board backwards from the rider's normal stance

Spin: When the rider and board rotate around on a vertical axis

Rail: A long rail made of metal, PVC, or wood used by a wakeboarder or wakeskater for sliding

Grab: A trick done when the rider reaches down to the board and clasps it with his or her hand while in the air

Raley-based trick: A series of tricks where the rider allows his or her body to extend backwards while the board catches air over the wake and lands on the opposite side of the wake

Trick: General term for the various stunts done by riders on the surface of the water or in the air

Wipe out: When a rider falls on a wakeboard

Set: A wakeboarder taking his or her turn on the water. Each time you ride, you've "taken a set."

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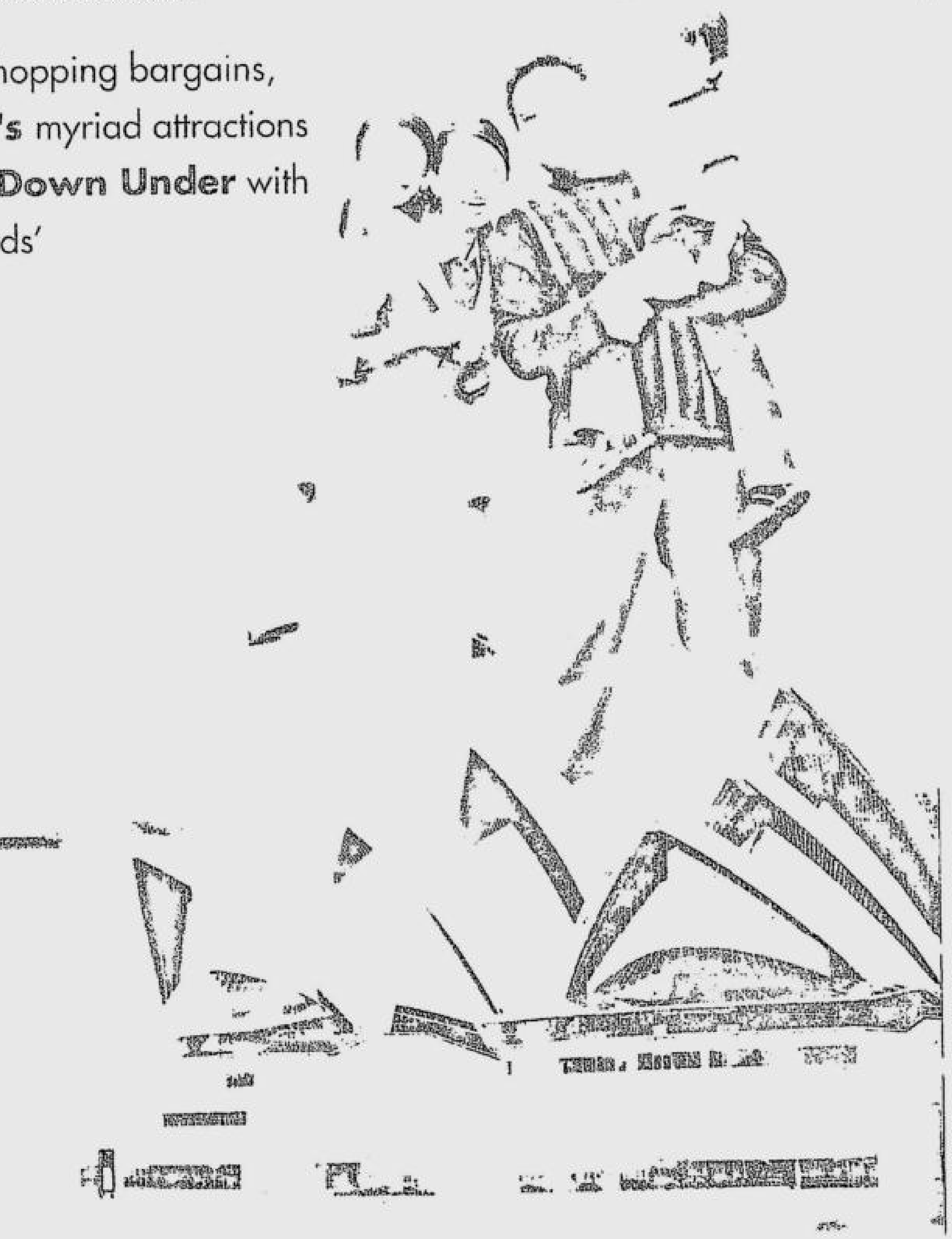

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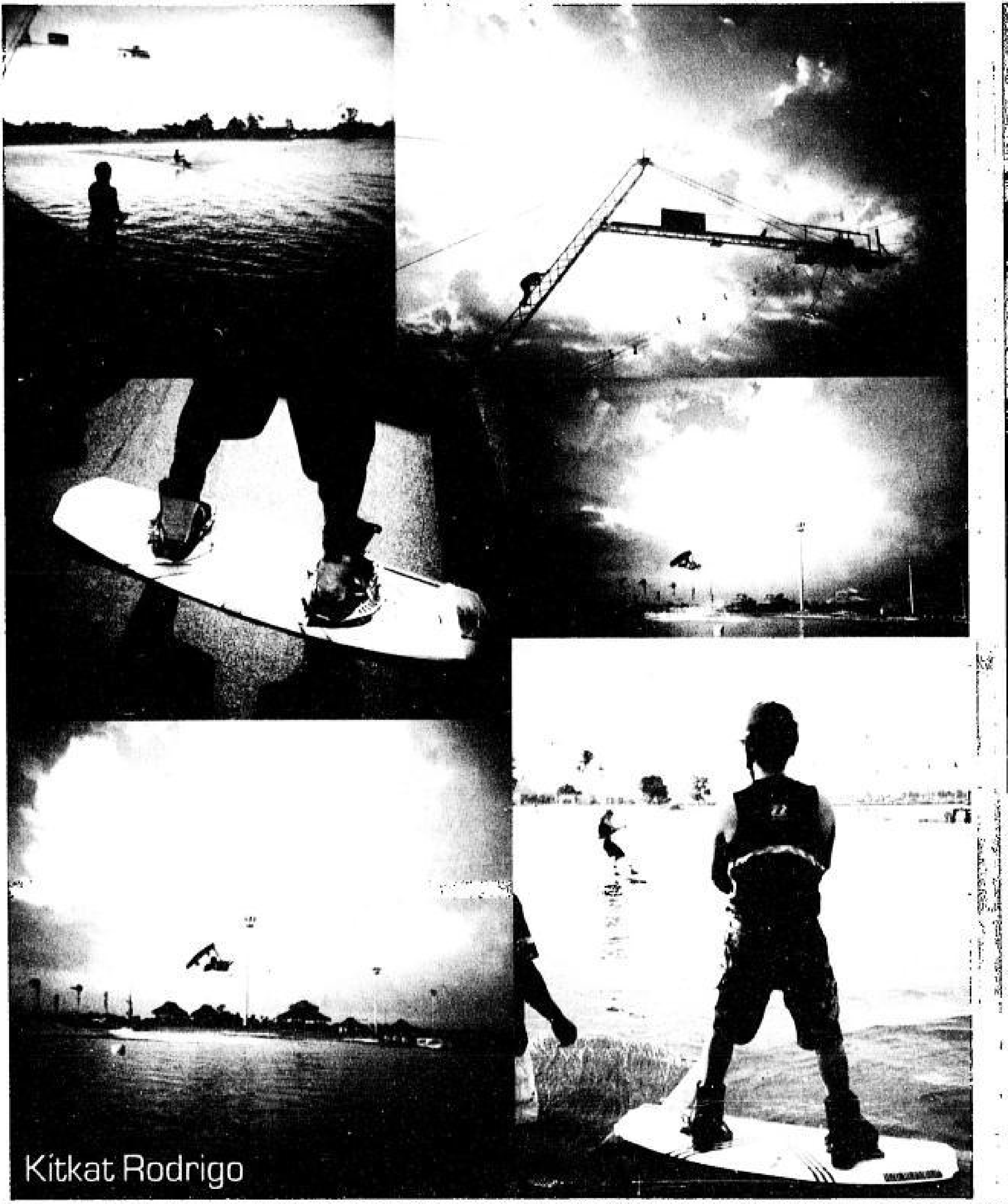

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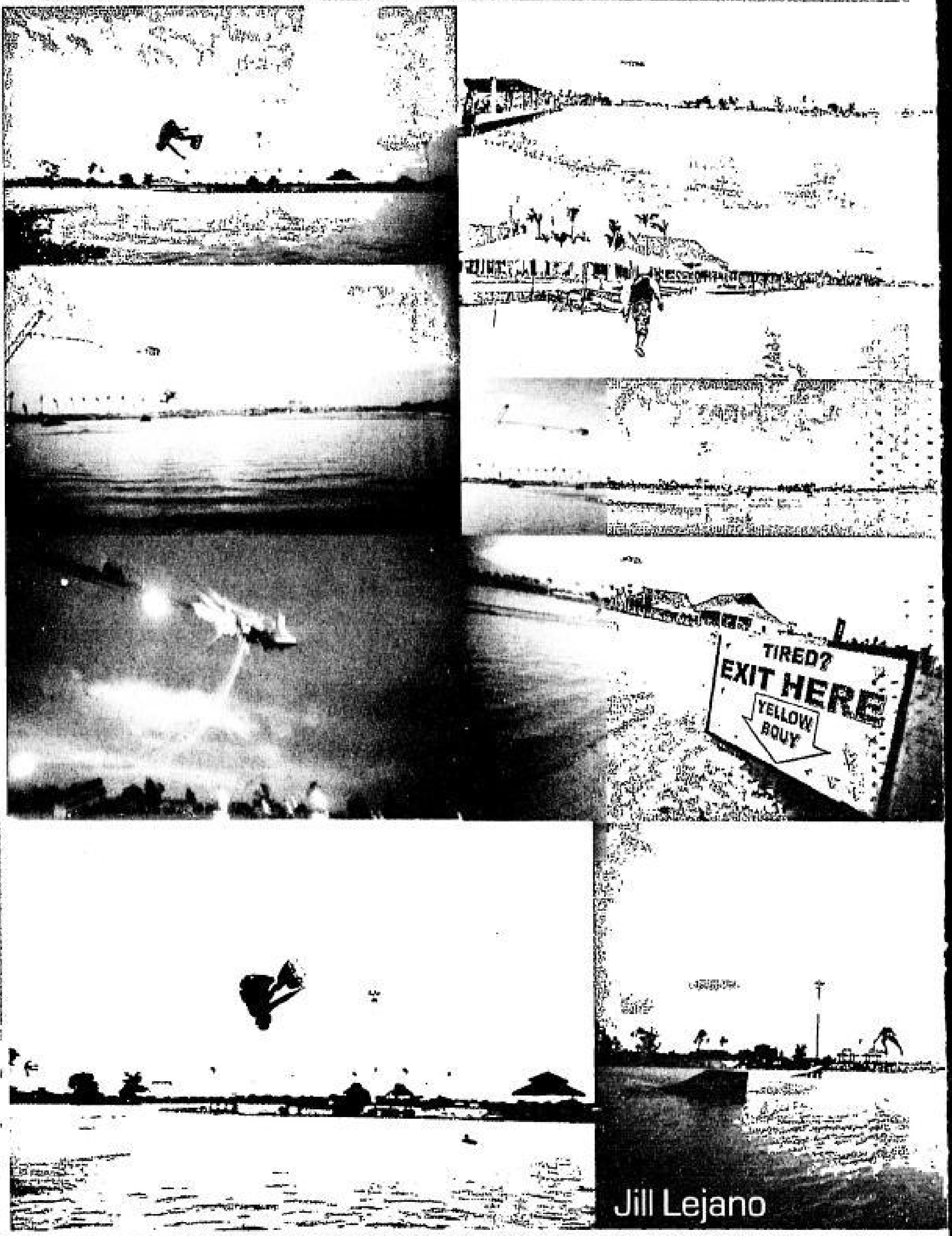

Jill Lejano

In the wake of greatness

The world's hottest new sport just got hotter as the Wakeboarding Nationals fever took CamSur by storm

Text and photos by Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

WEEKEND WARRIORS, UNITE! Despite the merciless onslaught of rain, wakeboarders and wakeskaters from all over the country pulled their best and most impressive tricks at the recent 2nd Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals Competition at the CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC).

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Refusing to be outdone, CamSur denizens proved their mettle against their Manila-based rivals and emerged triumphant in half of the categories.

Young Villafuerte scions Julio and Miguel placed first and second, respectively, in the Junior Men's Division, with brother Luigi topping the Groms Division. Sharing the spotlight were fellow champs Januson Dy (Masters), Dennis Divinagracia (Open Wakeskate) and Kateleen Reyes (Girls), who was the only rider in the entire competition who garnered a score reaching the high nineties. Rene Imperial, the lone contender from Albay, proudly took home the Men's Division trophy.

After the competition, some of the hottest pro wakeboarders and wakeskaters from Australia and the US flaunted their winning forms in an exhibition run. Capping off the three-day event were house parties, concerts and the Miss Earth preliminary swimsuit competition.

World's best

The brainchild of Camarines Sur governor and Philippine Water Ski and Wakeboarding Federation (PWWF) president Luis "LRay" Villafuerte, Jr., CWC opened just last year but is already considered the world's best cable park.

"There are six towers instead of the usual four or five, so there are more corners to do tricks," said US wakeskate champion Brian Grubb, who was one of the special guests invited by Villafuerte to do exhibitions for the event.

The complex also includes amenities you won't find in any other continent—luxury villas, cottages, recreational areas, swimming pool, spa pavilions, skate and bike parks, you name it. Get this: it even has its own Wi-Fi connection. If this isn't the ultimate wakeboarder's haven, then we don't know what is.

It's no surprise, then, that CWC comes second only to Boracay in terms of tourist growth. And unlike other vacation hotspots, it holds the sole advantage of being accessible by land travel, which means you and your friends can just hop on a Bicol-bound bus instead of scrimping on your allowance for plane fare. Two words, kids: Road trip!

As if that's not enough to look forward to, plans for flights to and from Boracay are currently in the works. "Here on weekdays, Bora on weekends," suggested Villafuerte. Now that's a wickedly enticing idea ... that is, if you have plenty of time (and money) to spare.

But before you start thinking that it's a mere playground for the rich and famous, the park rates will have you blinking in disbelief. In the US, one usually pays about $24 per hour, while at CWC, anyone with around P200 in their pocket can enjoy an hour's worth of wakeboarding, equipment and basic instructions included.

"The facility is world-class but very affordable," said Villafuerte. You don't even have to own a board; all you have to do is go there and rent to your heart's content. This obviously debunks the notion that wakeboarding is a "conyo" sport, doesn't it?

Young sport

If you're one of those people who don't know what wakeboarding is, don't fret—after all, it's a relatively new sport. In fact, it's so young that there are tricks the riders themselves don't even have names for yet (Commentator: "He's going for it... and he nails it! Whoa, that trick was massive!! ...Uh, what *is* that trick?").

While seasoned riders' acrobatics may make you think it's much harder than it looks, the sport is actually quite easy to learn—all you need to do is to practice, practice, practice.

But if you're that scared of falling flat on your face on your first try, you can try kneeboarding first. The more daring ones can go for wakeskating, which is basically wakeboarding without your feet strapped to the board.

The question is, how safe is it? Very safe, the pros reassure. Your joints and palms might feel a bit sore afterwards from gripping the bar too hard or from the force of the tug, but you'll forget all about it once the euphoria of flying across the water sets in.

In addition, riders normally wear helmets and life vests, so unless you attempt to do some crazy stunts without the proper gear and instruction, chances of incurring major injuries are slim to none.

Sure, your ego might get a little bruised from wiping out more often than you'd like, but nobody cares—even the pros themselves still fall out of balance from time to time.

Good exercise

More and more Pinoys are getting hooked on wakeboarding, and for good reason. Aside from having a valid excuse to travel with your friends, the sport can also give your muscles a decent workout.

"It's good exercise," said Grubb, and two-time champ Arthur King agreed. "Wakeboarding is a progressive sport; it's like bodybuilding, but you also become faster and stronger."

But the best thing about wakeboarding is that despite it being categorized as an extreme sport, it's for anyone and everyone who simply wants to try it out. Riders' ages vary from as young as 3 years old to as young-at-heart as 76 years old—yup, you read that right. As for body build, it doesn't really matter if you're stocky or stick-thin.

We Pinoys might be a little daunted by the towering Caucasian competitors, but taller doesn't necessarily mean better. "Most of the riders in the US who are really good are below six feet tall," said three-time Wakestock rail champion Keith Lidberg, whose height pretty much falls into that category.

What's more, it's not about competing with others; it's all about having fun with your friends or family, even if you're not very good at it.

"You tend to ride better in the right frame of mind, especially if you're riding with mates; if you're excited, you do well," said Aussie-born CWC manager and Biggs endorser Reuben Buchanan. Plus, you can yell all the expletives you want underwater whenever you wipe out

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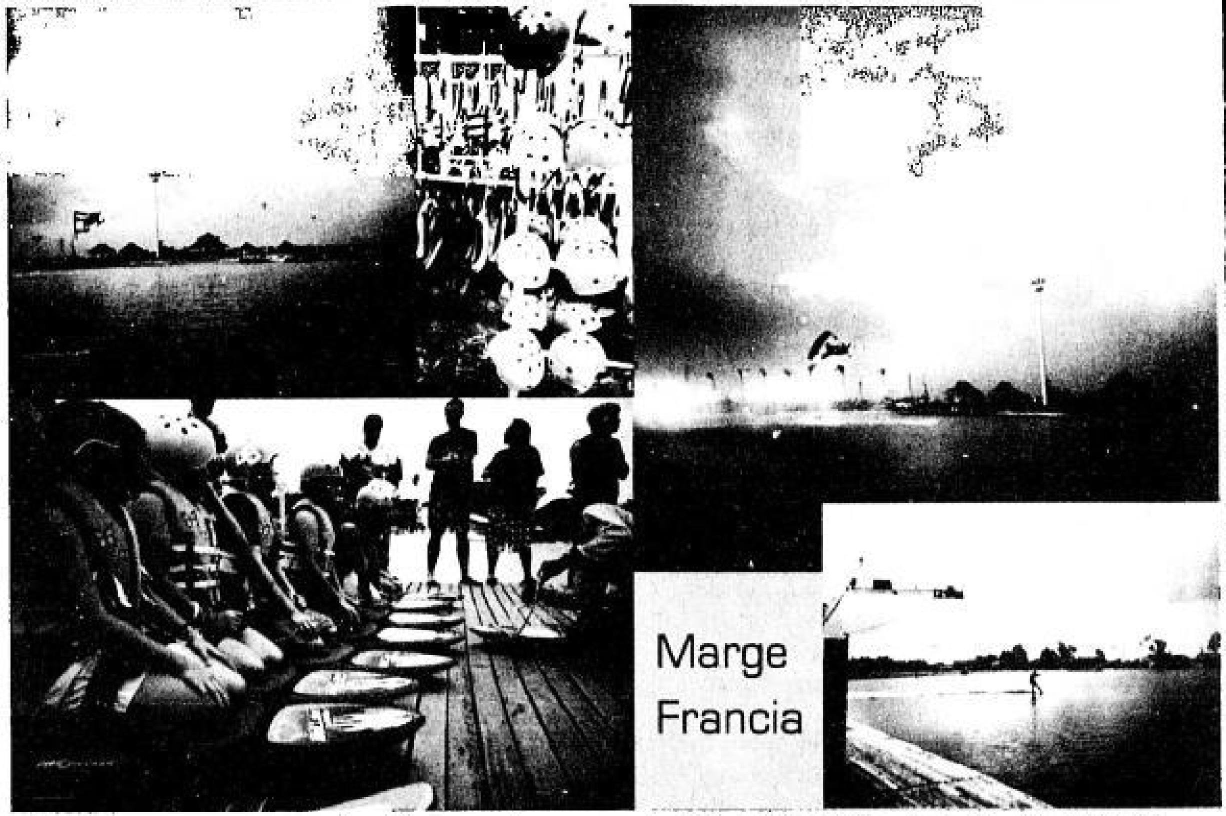

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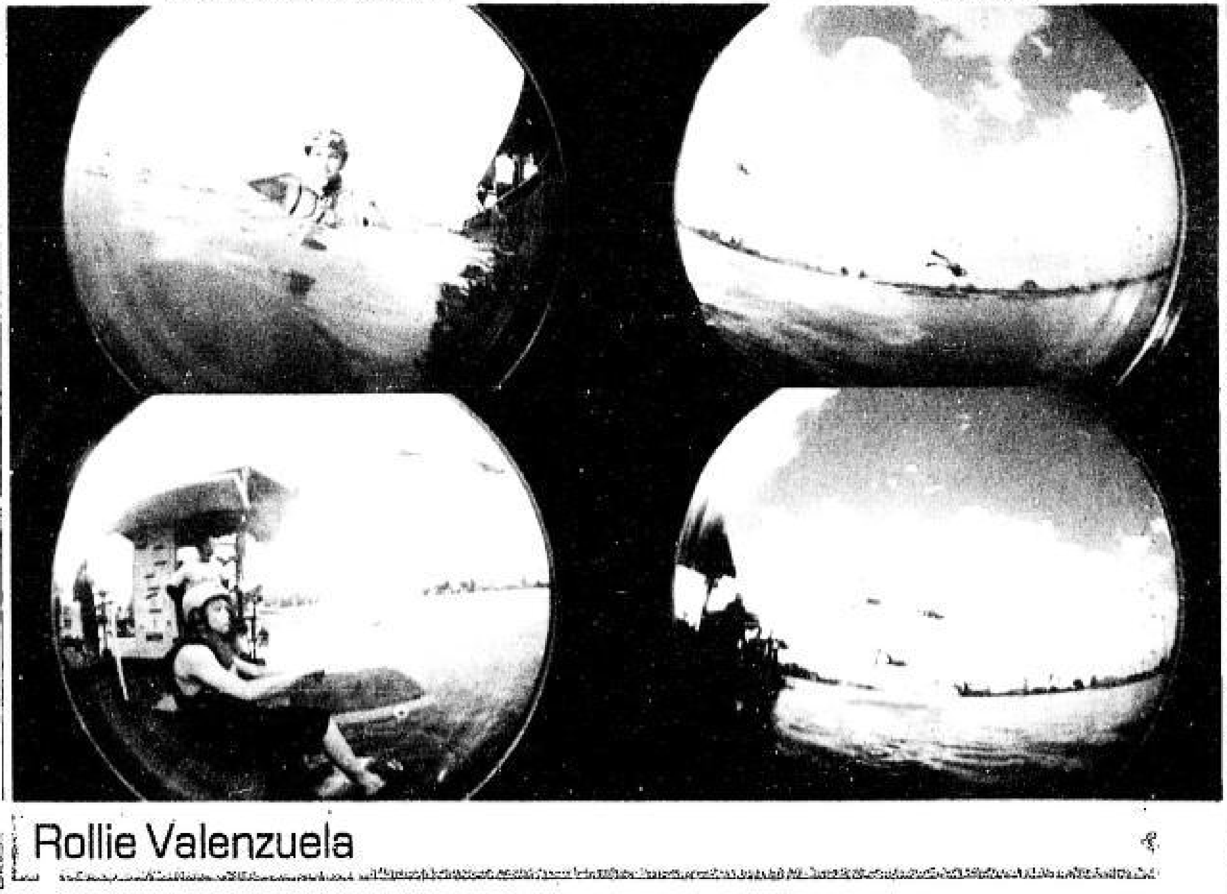

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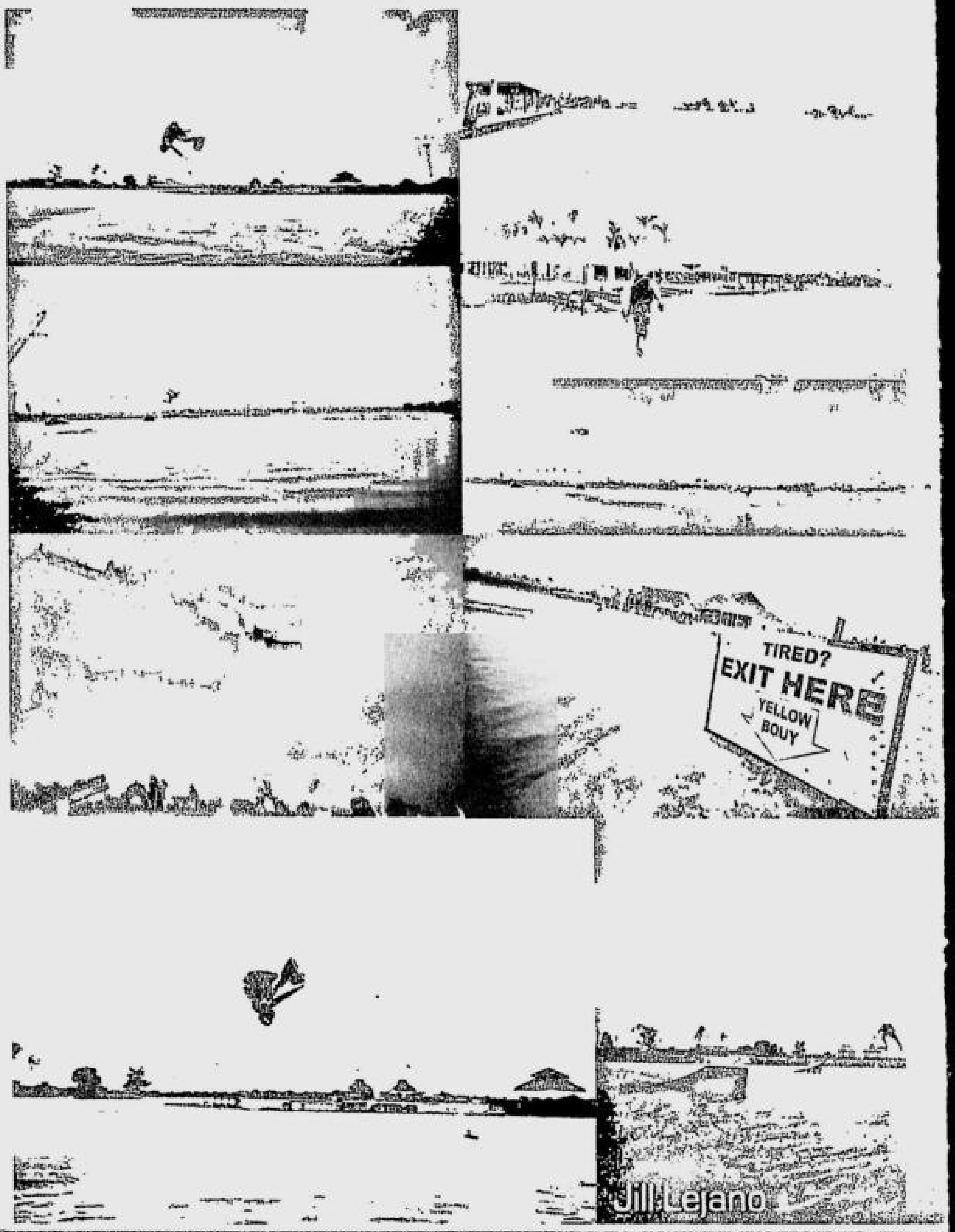

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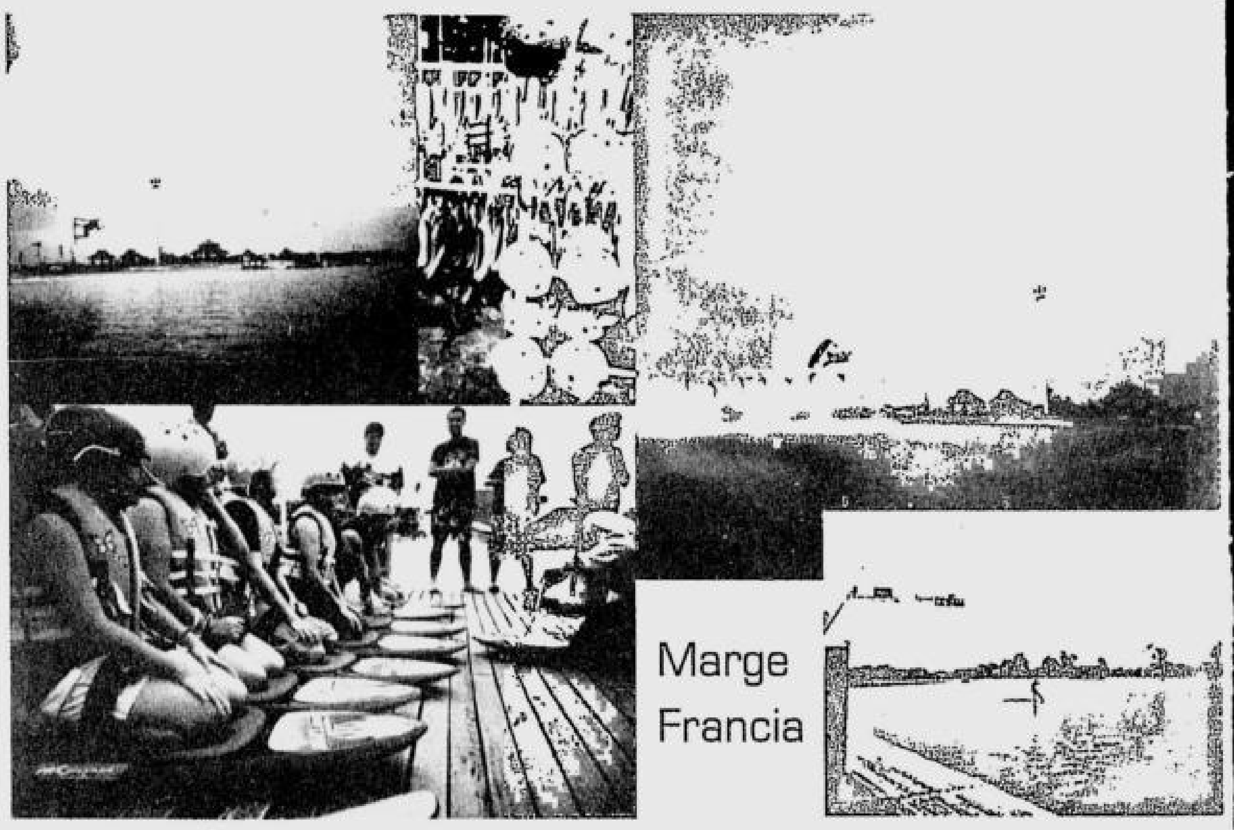

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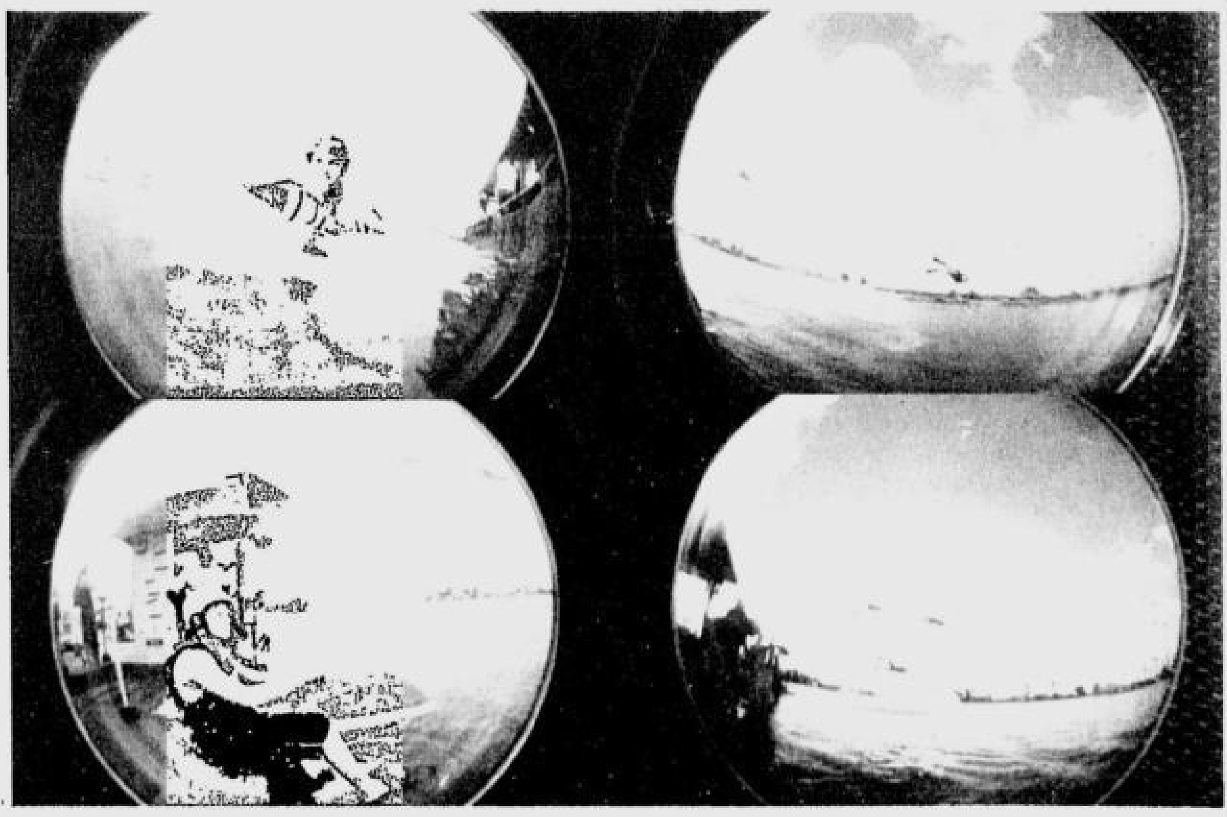

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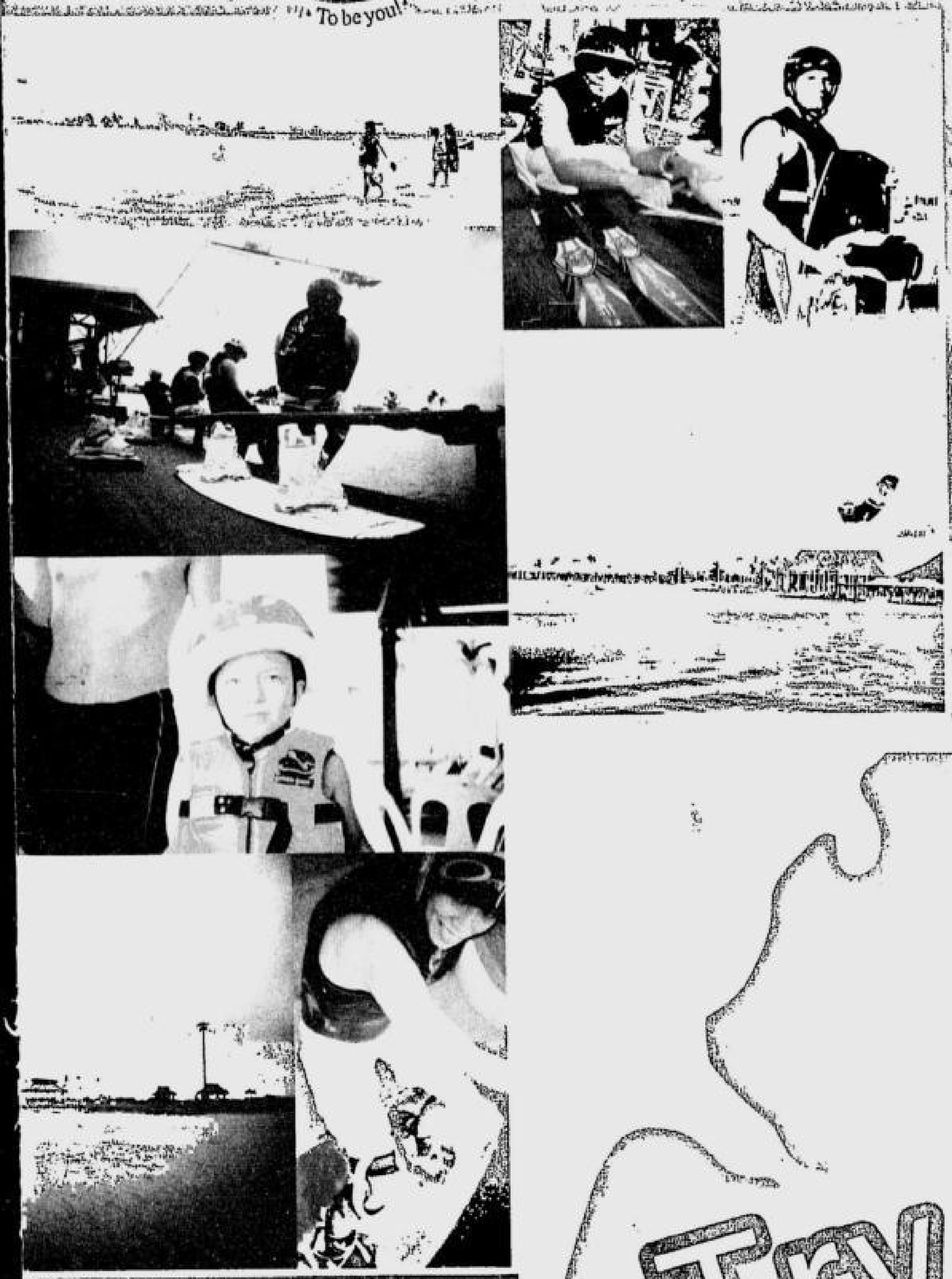

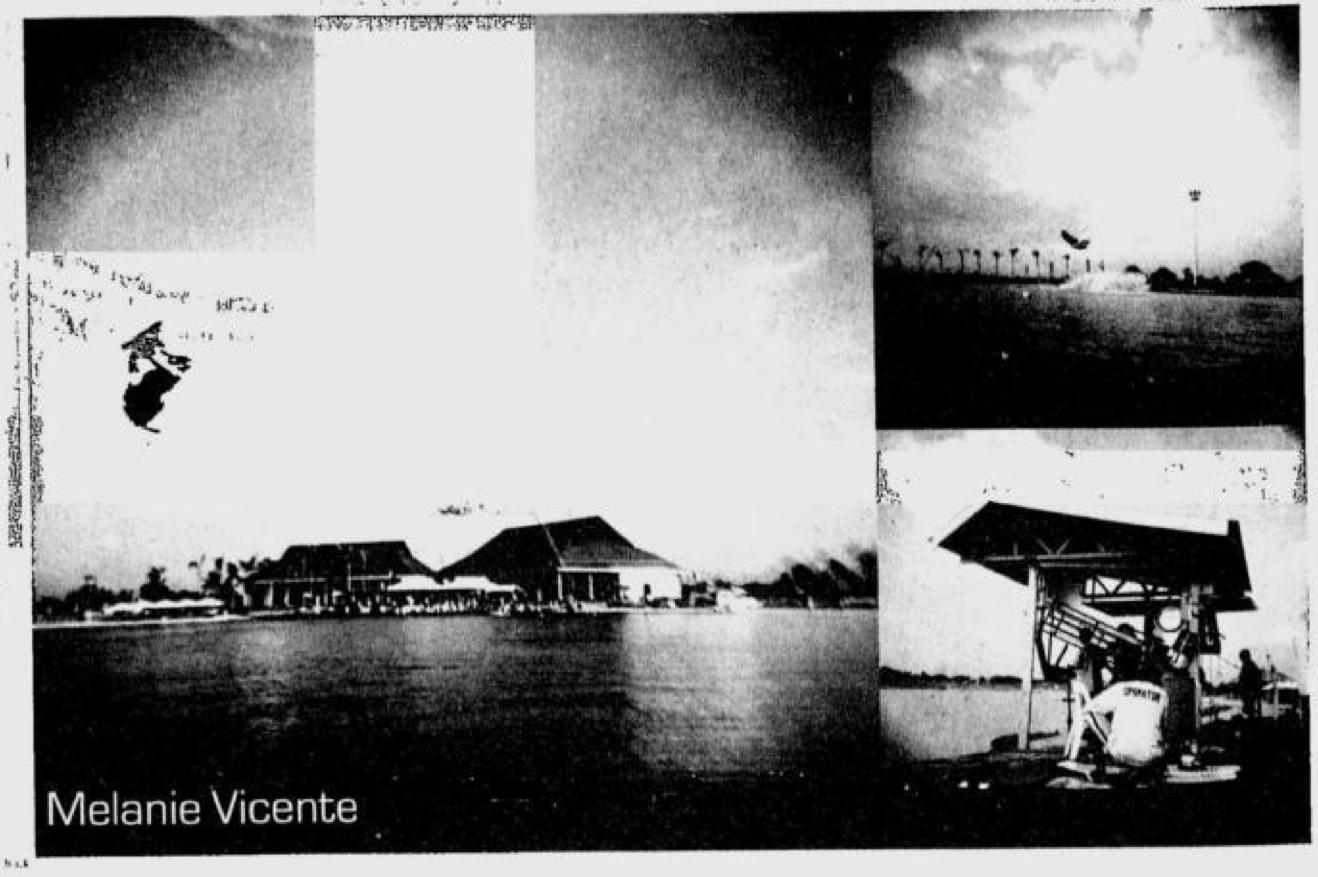
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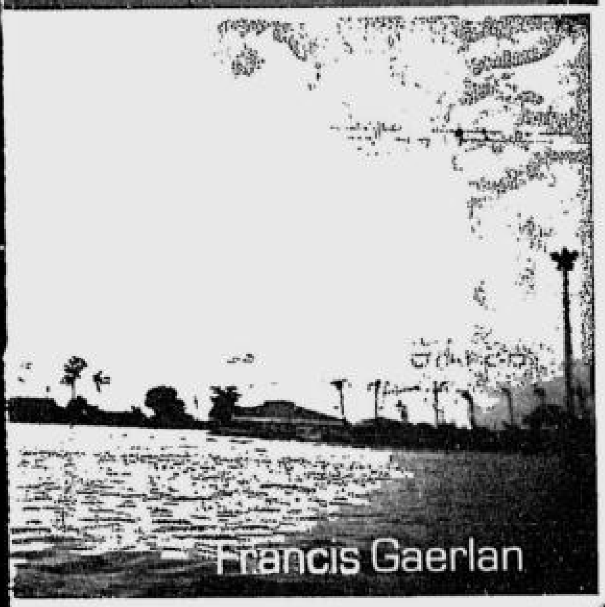
Francis Gaerlan

and nobody will hear you. Just kidding.

World host

For those who want to catch the riders in action, CWC is set to play host to the 2008 WWA Wake Park World Championships, which is scheduled on July 2-6, 2008.

This year's winners will have the chance to show the world what Filipino riders are made of, and the pros are actually looking forward to it. "I think Filipino wakeskaters are very, very good," said Grubb.

Buchanan added his vote of confidence: "I've been to a few world championships, but Gov. (Villafuerte) goes all out. I think next year's competition will be the best."

In the meantime, if you're up for a major road trip with your buds, you might want to mark CamSur on your road maps and prepare to experience what CWC proudly claims as "the ride of your life."

"I challenge you to try it—it's addictive," said Villafuerte. The wrath of Mother Nature might have prevented me from trying it out myself, but if anything, that (and the World championships next year) gives me one darn good reason to come back, that's for sure.

E-mail the author at avignacio@gmail.com

Getting there

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Location: within the Provincial Capitol Complex in Pili, Camarines Sur, Bicol

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Accommodations: Choose from affordable places like the EcoVillage or the Villa del Rey Containers, which are closer to the cable park, if you're on a budget. The Mansion Suites and the Villa del Rey Cabanas and Villas are for those who want more high-end accommodations.

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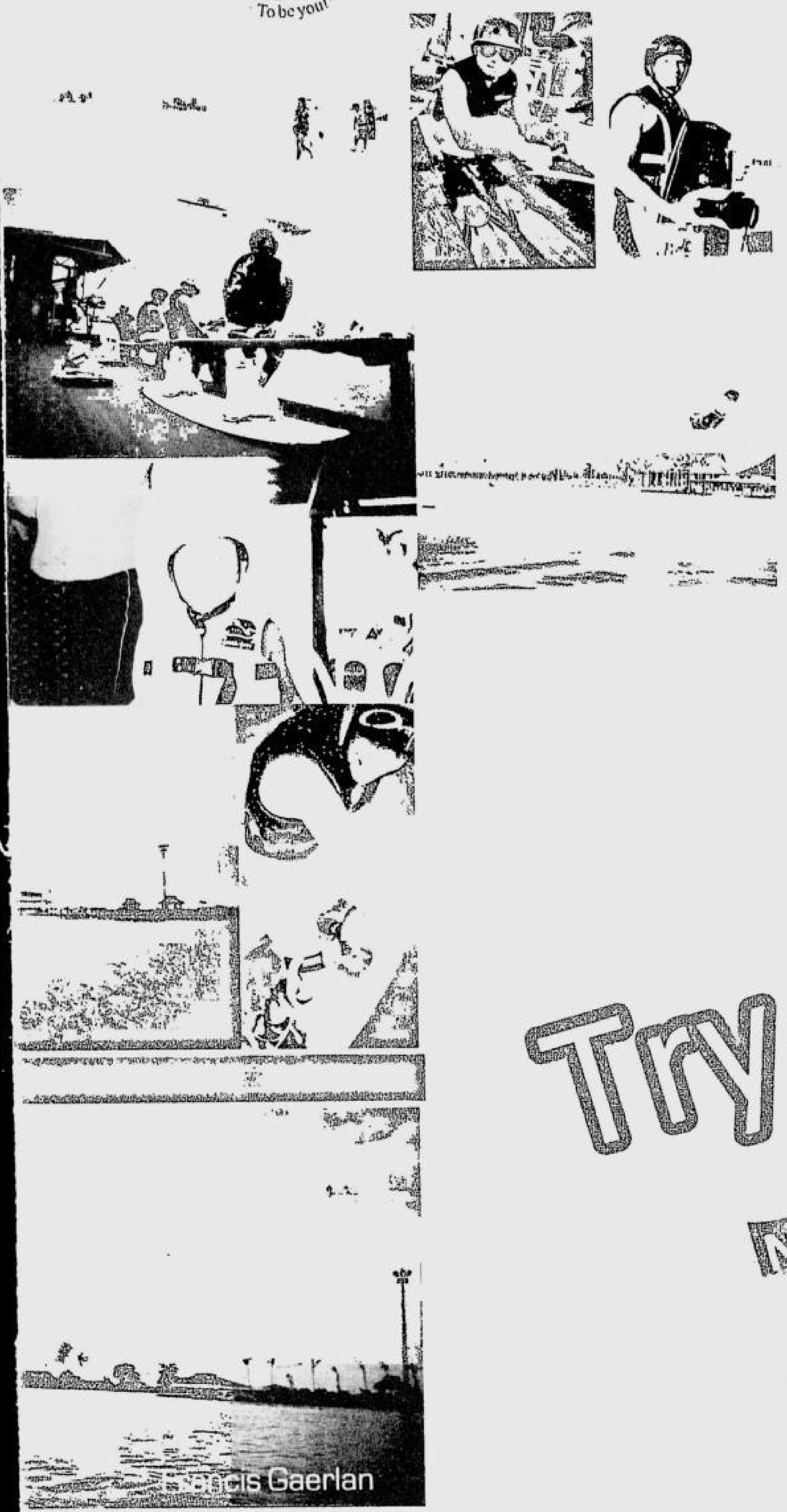

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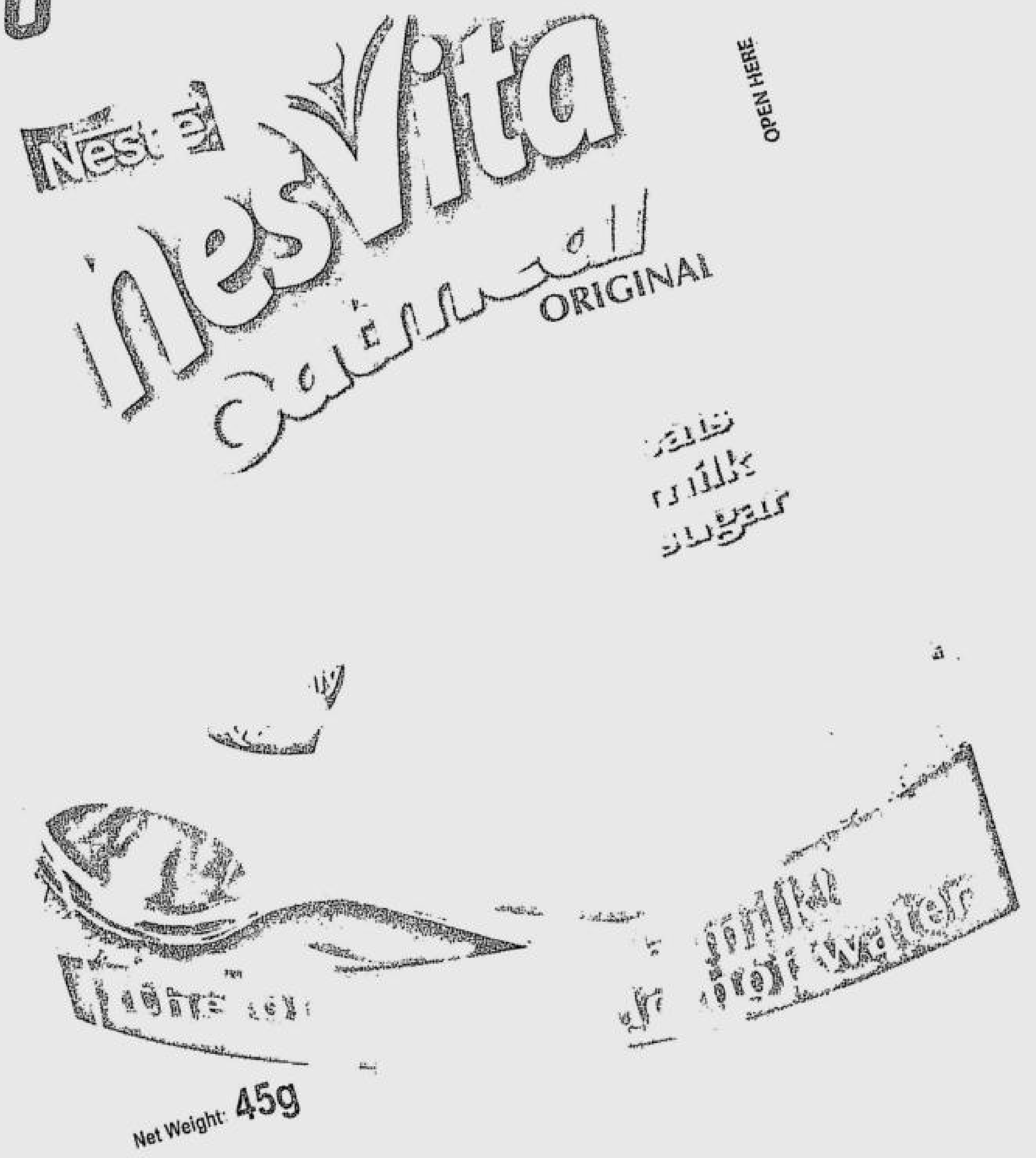

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Penshoppe gives style makeovers to the 5 National Finalists of Globe Kantabataan, the youth music festival that keeps on rocking the country. These bands are all set to conquer the audience with their songs, in their own fashion, during the Grand Finals Showdown. Catch this special event at SM Mall of Asia Music Hall on Nov. 10, 2007 at 4:30 PM.

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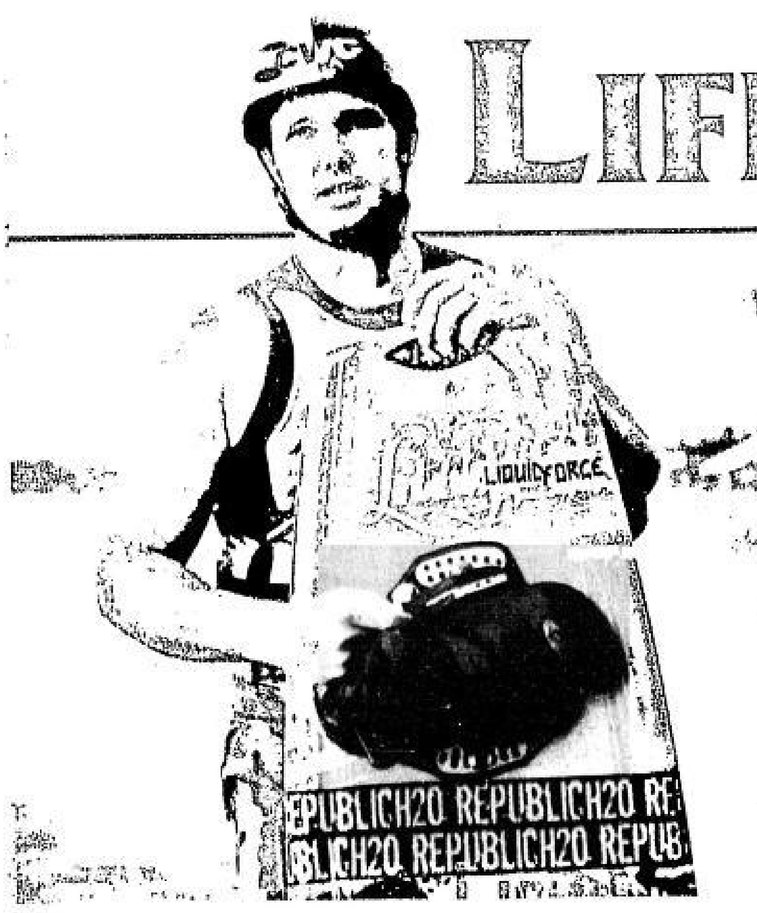


Wakeboard like a pro

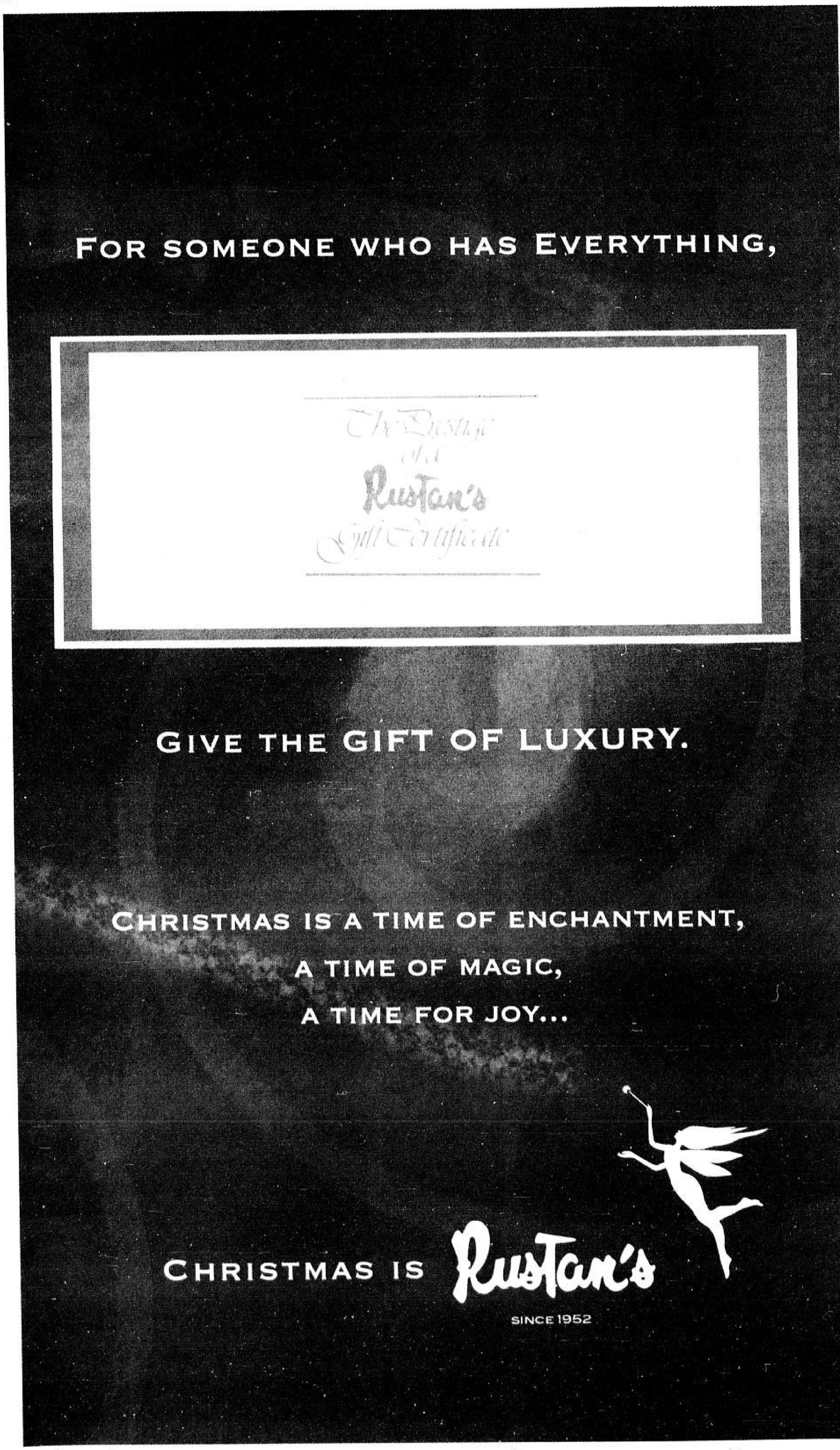
By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lejano

THE MORE you push yourself, the stronger you will get," says Reuben Buchanan.

CWC'S RESIDENT pro Reuben Buchanan loves wakeboarding because, he says, "Once you're out in the water, you're free to express yourself. It feels nice gliding across the water."

Reuben has been wakeboarding for 11 years. He started when he was 19 and still living in Australia. "People think you have to be strong to do it. You don't have to look strong, you don't have to be physically strong. The more you push yourself, the

WAKEBOARD/ D2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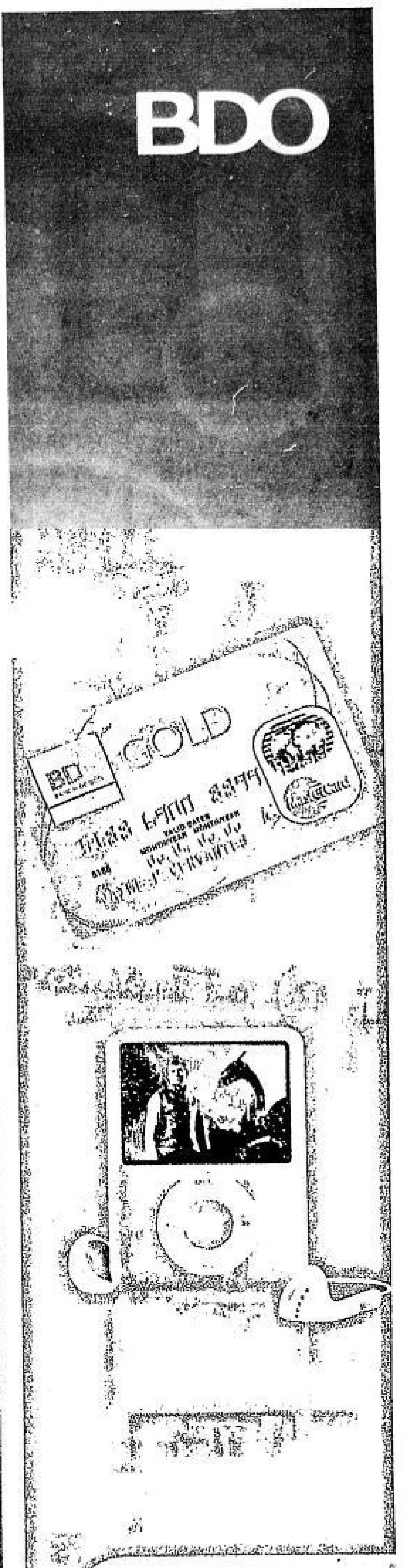
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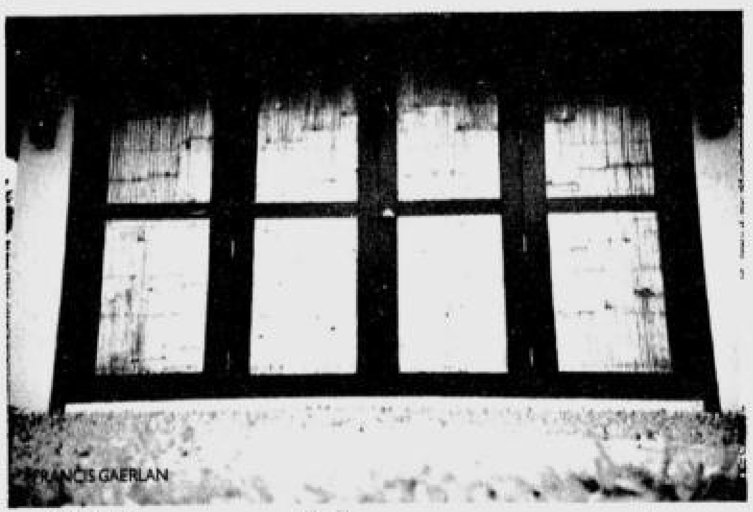
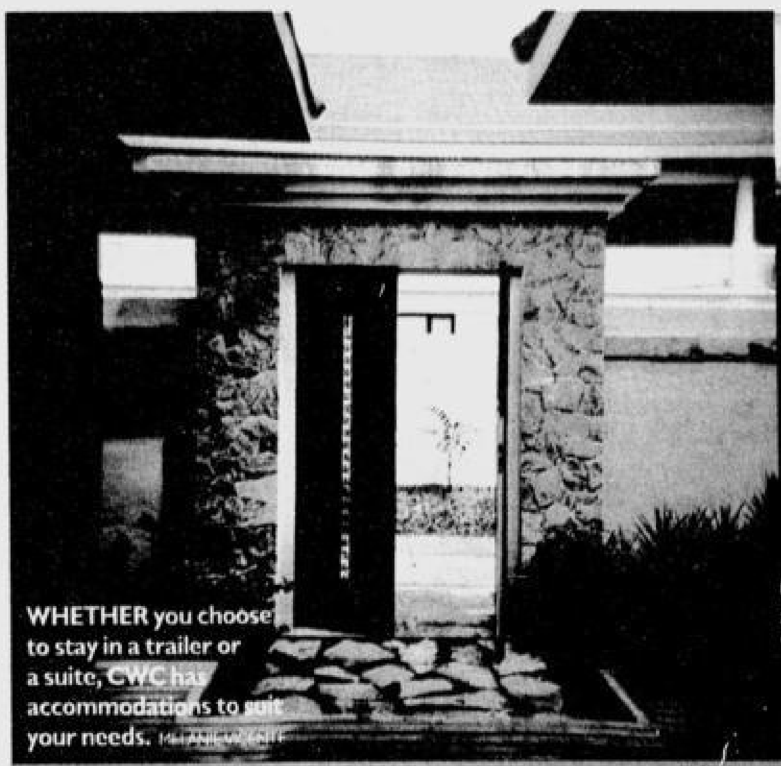
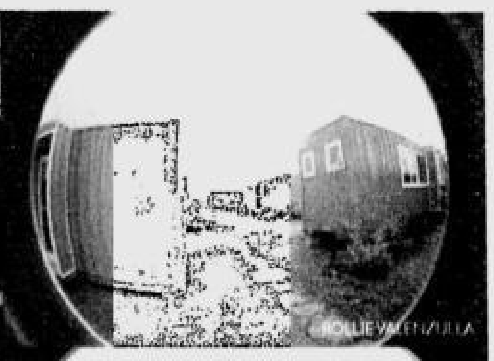

FRANCIS GAERLAN

Feeling at home


WHETHER you choose to stay in a trailer or a suite, CWC has accommodations to suit your needs.

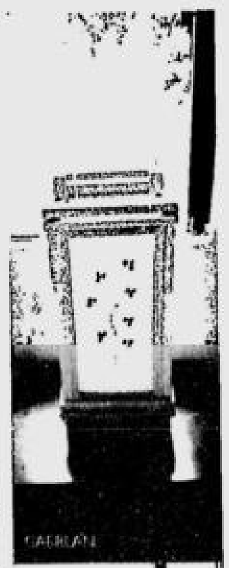
VICENTE


ROLLIE VALENZUELA

KITKAT RODRIGO

The CWC has accommodations for the adventurous and the affluent

By Marge Francia
2bUI Contributor


GAERLAN

EVERY VIRGIN WAKEBOARDER knows the throbbing ache that accompanies the very first tug of that cable. First, the neck and shoulder muscles become sore, with the pain gradually cascading to the arms.

For me it's a sweet kind of pain, knowing I've engaged in some extreme sport one way or another despite having lower-back problems.

The accommodations at CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC) seem to have been purposely designed to nurse this post-wakeboarding ache, because it affords one the exquisite luxury of recouping strength for yet another wakeboarding (and drinking) session.

For this lomotripping, my friends and I got to stay in the Villa del Rey Trailer Homes, cute and colorful trailers of one or two bedrooms with a kitchenette, living room and a deck. They say Aga Muhlach prefers to stay here because it's nearest the wakeboarding area.

The Cabanas, also near the wakeboarding area, are small native-inspired houses with doors that open up to the sunshine.

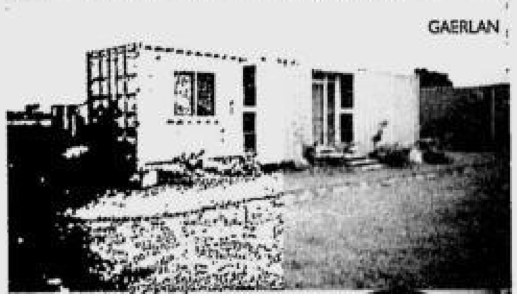
Nature lovers, on the other hand, will love the Ecovillage because it holds the country's most diverse collection of local and exotic birds, as well as the country's best wetland display. There's also a manmade cave, and a fishpond where you can catch fish for your next meal.

Now for the more "discriminating" guests, the Mansion Suites is a 15-bedroom hotel that was once used as a guest house for visiting dignitaries. Its use of wicker chairs and capiz gives it a Filipiniana feel.

If you want more privacy, stay at the Villas. This private Zen-like retreat has its own entrance, a garden and an outdoor hot tub ideal for members of the Happy Hearts Club. The large swimming pool, upscale dining and spa make it the perfect venue for weddings and private parties.

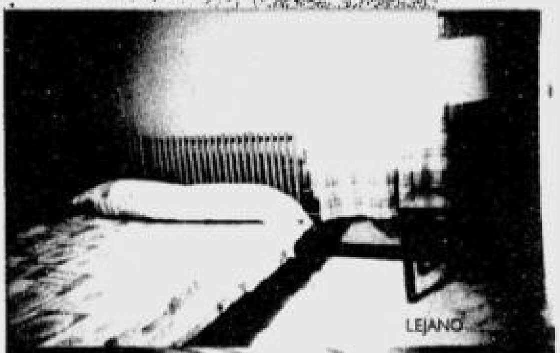
Staying at CWC was for me a most pleasurable experience. It may be because of these wonderful accommodations, the great food, the crazy adventures and the nice people here, but for sure it's also because of the super wonderful company of these lomo loonies I call friends.

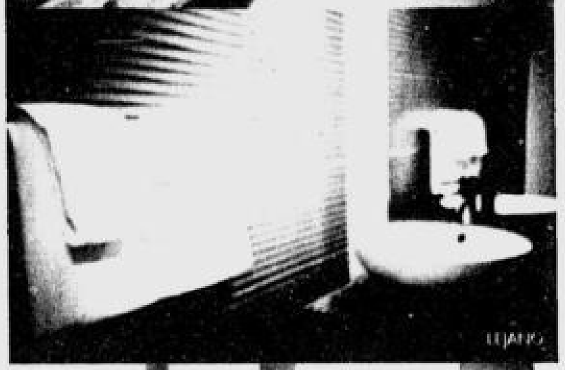
FRANCIS INTON


GAERLAN

GAERLAN

LEJANO


LEJANO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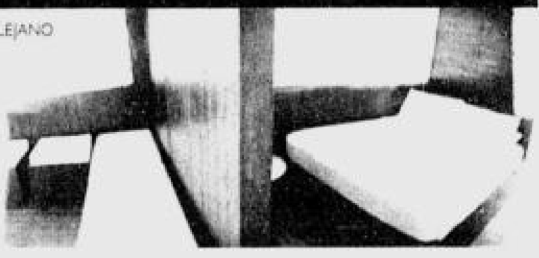

LEJANO

[illegible], chill

THERE'S so much more you can do at the CWC than just wakeboard.

Hang out at the game room and play billiards or table tennis. Swim in the pool. Chill at the cabanas. Rollerskate or skateboard at the rink. Visit the manmade cave. And our favorite—jump and do flips on the trampoline. *PP*

RODRIGO

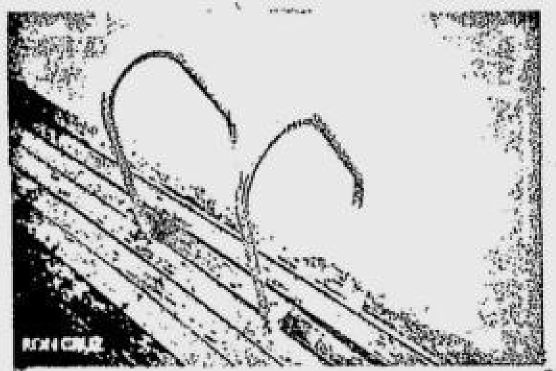
RODRIGO

LEJANO

LEJANO

LEJANO

VICENTE


RON CRUZ

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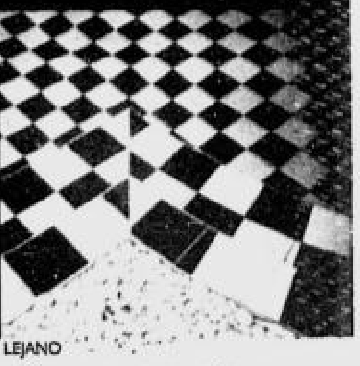

LEJANO

Wakeboard like a pro

WAKEBOARDING expert Reuben Buchanan spends his time teaching others to love his sport.

stronger you will get."

Reuben also loves how wakeboarding has been bringing families together. His wife, who is half Filipino and half Kiwi, and their 4-year-old daughter Takiah Lanie are also big fans of the sport. "It's a whole lifestyle. It's a good clean lifestyle—that's how we want to keep it. The families come here and have fun. We make sure we're always teaching new people, that we're teaching everybody."

He says aspiring wakeboarders should start with the knee board, to get a feel of the cable first. "People don't realize how much fun a knee board can be. You can fly and spin and do heaps of crazy stuff."

Here are tips from Reuben, for people who want to wakeboard like a pro:

1. Watch what other people are doing. Try to understand how wakeboarding works first.
2. Start with the knee board so you can figure out how to get around the corners.
3. Always listen to the instructors, even if the instructor says something that sounds weird. If they say bend your knees, bend your knees.
4. Don't stand up. You want to ride with your knees bent. Balance like it's a balance beam.
5. Don't lean back.
6. When you fall off, don't get stressed. Don't give up. Don't expect to get it on the first or second go. Expect that it might take 10 "gos."
7. If you can't get up one way, try another way. Or try a different coach.
8. You will keep learning, you will continually get better.
9. Just push yourself, take it as extreme as you want.

Scrawled on boards

THANKS
B
BACK
DREAM

ONE of the wakeboards on display at the CWC clubhouse
MARGE FRANCIA

Wakeboarding enthusiasts from around the world love CamSur so much that they leave behind their boards scrawled with letters addressed to what they call 'the best place in the world'

By Pam Pastor

REUBEN BUCHANAN UNabashedly declares CWC as the best wakeboarding park in the world. "Gov. L-Ray Villafuerte has really pushed the sport worldwide, and I'm not just saying this because I'm here. Nobody disputes it."

And it seems a lot of wakeboarding enthusiasts from around the world agree—they love the place so much that a lot of them have been led to leave behind their wakeboards but not before scrawling messages on them. Other wakeboarders wrote similar messages on their framed wakeboarding photos that are hung in CWC's clubhouse.

"Thanks CWC, the best place in the world," wrote Sjoerd Compier who is from the Netherlands.

Lior Sofer of Israel wrote, "Thanks. CWC you rock!"

"CWC is the best playground in the world. Big boys love it!" wrote Daniel Fetz from Austria.

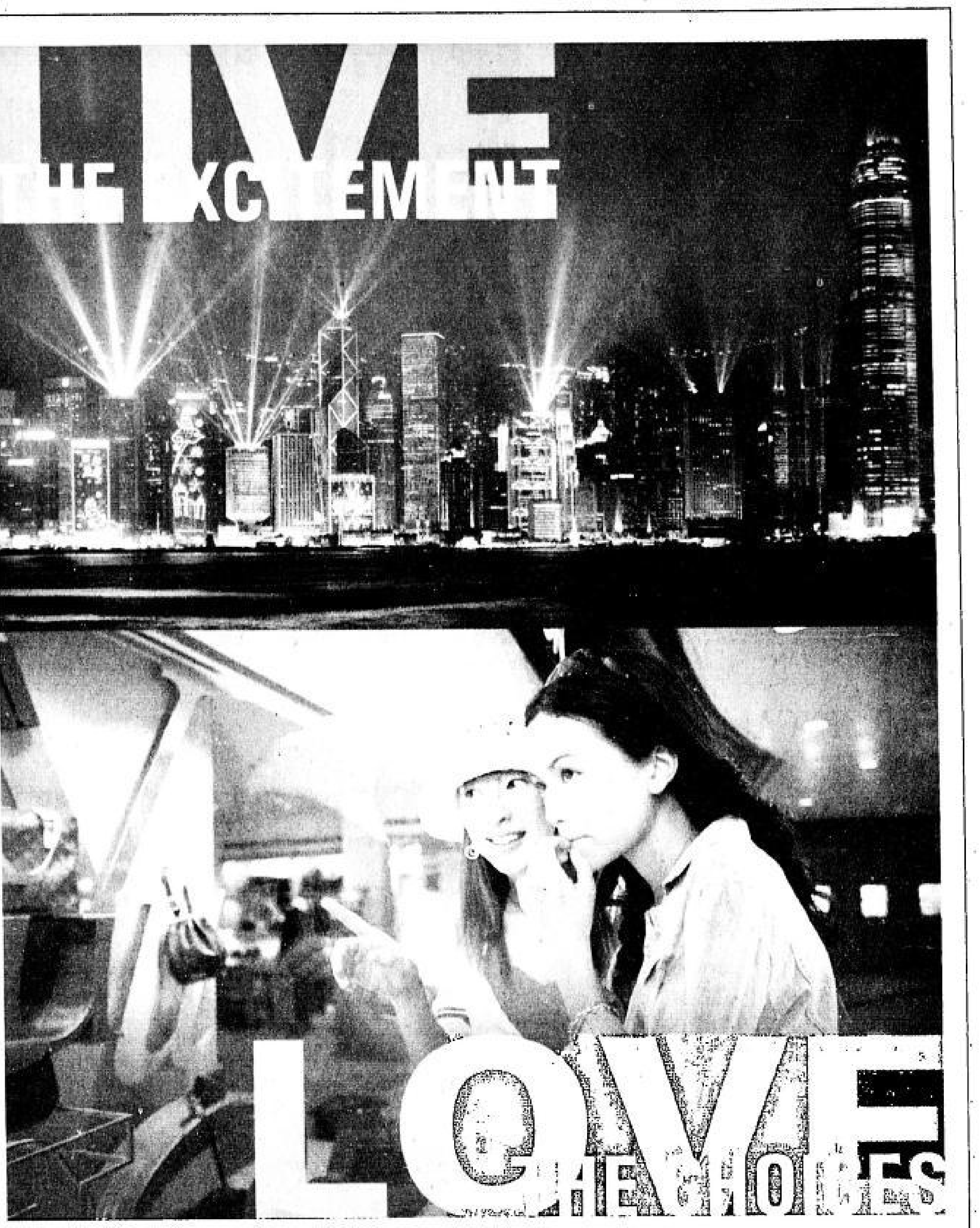
Australia's Sam Shefe wrote, "CWC the greatest cable in the world. Had heaps of fun. Cya next year! Come South, CamSur!"

Ashley Templeman from England agrees, "CWC rocks my world."

"Thanks for the time of my life," wrote Brad Federspiel, USA.

Michael Blunk of the USA felt the same way. "Best vacation of my life. Locals, ride hard and show me something!"

Efi Levy of Israel calls CWC "the dream of every rider" while Donald and Daniel Shelbrick think of it as "a second home" and an "oasis."



Come and have the time of your life in Hong Kong.
Whether you're being mesmerized by the city's glistening nighttime skyline or being tempted by a galaxy of choices in one of the city's trendy shops, Hong Kong is sure to tantalise your senses.
Hong Kong is a fascinating mix of modern lifestyles and ancient customs, a vibrant living culture in a sophisticated cosmopolitan setting. Experience fantastic shopping, great dining, and enjoy wonderful sights and attractions. Treasure every moment you spend in Asia's world city. Have the time of your life and fall in love with Hong Kong.
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HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Information for Living Right

Question

Does drinking carbonated soft drinks make people gain weight? Isn't this one of the main causes of the current obesity epidemic?

Answer

Neither carbonated soft drinks nor any other single type of food or beverage is responsible for the problems of overweight and obesity. According to the American Dietetic Association, all foods and beverages can have a place in a well-balanced diet, as long as you don't take in more calories than you burn.

Carbonated soft drinks can help quench your thirst and help provide your body with its daily fluid needs, but they should not be the only beverage that people consume. Besides basic hydration, carbonated soft drinks can also provide carbohydrate fuel that supplies energy necessary for daily activities.

In studying the diets of obese people, scientists have not determined that any specific food or beverage is the root cause of weight problems. While a few studies have reported some association between sugar or soft drink consumption and weight gain, many others have not. For overweight people, reducing calories, from any food or beverage source will help control weight, and including physical activity as part of their daily regimen will also help. In fact, to be physically fit you must engage in physical exercise; diet alone will not make you physically fit.

So that people can choose the type of soft drink that best suits their tastes and calorie needs, carbonated soft drinks are now available at several caloric levels: no-calorie, low-calorie, reduced-calorie and regular-calorie. The variety of beverages and package sizes offered by The Coca-Cola Company allows people to make the choices that are right for them - whether it is juice or juice beverages, diet soft drinks, regular soft drinks, iced tea, or bottled water.

Sources:

• Sigman-Grant MJ and Hsieh G. Reported use of reduced-sugar foods and beverages reflect high quality diets, Journal Food Science, 70:S42-46, 2005.
• Kvaavik E, et al. The stability of soft drinks intake from adolescence to adult age and the association between long-term consumption of soft drinks and lifestyle factors and body weight. Public Health Nutrition, 8:149-157, 2005.
• Renwick AG. Intense sweeteners, food intake, and the weight of a body of evidence. Physiology Behavior, 55:139-143, 1994.
• Janssen I, et al., Comparison of overweight and obesity prevalence in school-aged youth from 34 countries and their relationships with physical activity and dietary patterns. Obesity Reviews, 6:123-132, 2005.

In Step with Health

Does daydreaming take up most of your time? While you're walking to the office, or while browsing through a magazine, you often dream of having a life that's different from your own. Like living a life filled with adventure. You imagine the pure rush of sliding down a mountain. You can almost feel the refreshing spray of the ocean on your face as you fly through air and sky. Wouldn't it be great to be able to do that all the time? What a life that would be!

Then reality hits you like a heavy backpack. You're not on some adventure in a remote island. That rush you feel going down is because you're riding down the elevator. And that spray? It's actually your sweat, as the elevator you're riding is extremely hot. You realize that no, you're not off to some holiday; you're at the office, facing a day of work.

But who ever said having a job means never having some adventure in your life? Just ask Jason Luengo, one of the owners of extreme lifestyle brand Tribu, famous for their built-to-last footwear. Jason is living the life: working on the weekdays and playing different extreme sports on the weekends.

"For me, physical activity is very important because it helps me fight stress," shared Jason. "Being active also helps me to think better and have a clearer mind. I think that while you're working out your body, you're working out your mind too. Because not only do you get rid of stress, you also feel better, and you can get a lot of creative ideas. You're not irritable when you are active, you even feel happier because of endorphins (a hormone released during physical activity that induces a happy feeling)."

Don't think that only successful people can get the time to do physical activities. In fact, Jason shared that physical activity was also extremely important when Tribu was just starting out. "When the company wasn't stable yet, we had to face a lot of stress. From Monday-Friday, we worked hard at the factory. But during Friday evenings, we would bring our backpacks and do all sorts of activities like climbing. When we got back to the factory during Mondays, we would feel refreshed and we looked forward to working again because we had all these great new ideas. You don't think that work is a routine because you have something to look forward to on the weekends, like maybe trying mountain biking."

So how does one get the energy to do all these things? Well, as Jason related, it doesn't just happen in one day. "When I was young I remember always being involved in sports, like I was into soccer in elementary. When I wasn't playing, in the morning I would always jog. I would enjoy waking up at 4:00 a.m. then jog around, come back home and get ready for school. Then in high school I got interested in BMX biking. Then in college, soccer, then mountain climbing during vacations. Until now I'm like a child, always looking for something to do or to play."

Even if you didn't start being active early in life like Jason, there's no reason why you can't do it now. In fact, it's never too late to start living a balanced, healthy and active lifestyle or HAL. It doesn't take a lot of time and money either. All you need to remember are three very simple things: eating a balanced diet, regular physical activity and proper hydration.

Eating a balanced diet is something that most people have done their whole lives, they just never realized it. It just means eating a wide variety of foods to meet you daily caloric and nutritional needs. Different foods give your body different things like energy and minerals, so you need to eat a balanced mix of different foods.

Avoiding 'junk foods' to be healthy is a big myth. There are no 'junk foods' to avoid, only 'junk diets' or bad combinations of food and excessive eating. Remember that doing too much of something is always bad for you. Too much stress leads you to get sick, but too much playing around won't get you anywhere in life either. It's all about balance, and the same goes for food.

Regular physical activity on the other hand doesn't mean you have to get into extreme sports like Jason. Not everybody likes doing sports but that isn't any reason not to get moving. According to the Beverage Institute for Health and Wellness website (BIHW), "Working out doesn't have to be a chore, and you don't have to go to the gym. The key is to find enjoyable ways to get moving. Whether it's swimming, biking, walking in the park or playing with your toddlers at the playground, fitness can be fun for you and your family (www.thebeverageinstitute.org. 2006)."

Did you also know that cleaning the house, sweeping, making bunot and doing the laundry are also forms of physical activity? It can actually be anything that can get your body moving, sweating and burning calories. Just remember to get an hour to an hour-and-a-half of physical activities everyday.

Lastly hydration is something that most people forget about. That's a shame because it's actually a very important aspect of health. "Hydration is very important," agreed Jason. "When I used to join adventure races, they sometimes lasted for twelve long days. Even if we didn't get to eat anything but we hydrated ourselves, our bodies don't get tired easily."

Although, athletes aren't the only ones who need hydration. It's everybody's concern. "Chefs working in hot kitchens as well as construction workers, farmers, dock workers and others who work outdoors in hot climates also need to pay attention to their hydration needs www.thebeverageinstitute.org. 2006)."

Before recalling the eight-glasses-of-water-a-day rule, read about this first. According to the BIHW website, your body actually needs 11-16 cups of total fluids each day, depending on age, gender, weight, the weather and level of physical acticity. You need more fluids when you're active becaue you lose more when you sweat. Drinking before, during and after physical activity will help keep your body dehydrated.

Fluids also mean that you don't need to stick to water to get hydrated. You can also drink your favorite beverages like soft drinks, teas, and juices. Food with water like soups, stews, fruits and vegetables can help too!

Added Jason, "Being healthy is very important because in any business, whatever your profession is, you encounter stress. Even if you'e operating a sari-sari store or a multinational company, there will always be problems so you need to stay healthy. It's a lifestyle that you have to enjoy. It's not a sacrifice. That's the secret to keeping yourself healthy. Getting sick is a waste of time and a waste of life."

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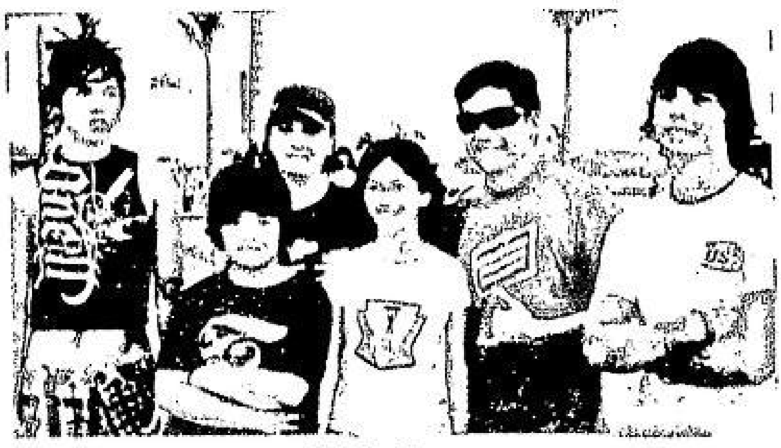
MISS KAZAKHSTAN

MISS GUATEMALA

ERNIE and Jeena Lopez

KEITH

BRIAN and Reuben

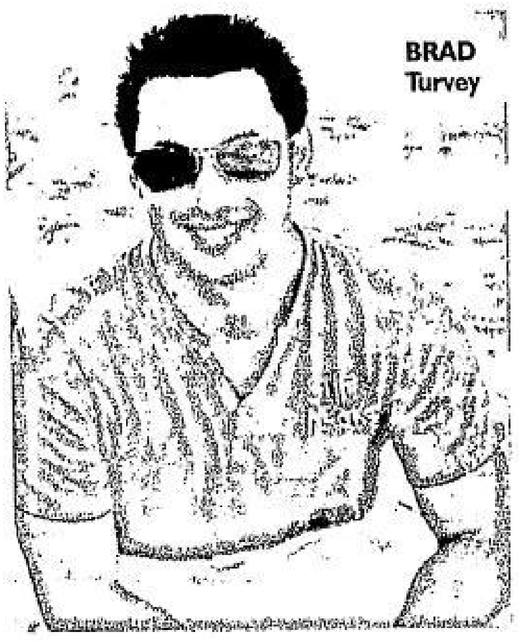


GOV. L-RAY Villafuerte and his family

2BU! SPYCAM

Boards, babes and beautiful bods

By Angela Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent



BRAD Turvey

INTREPID THRILL SEEKERS recently braved angry weather to spend a weekend at CWC, among them entire families and celebrities both local and foreign.

Extreme sports buffs might recognize some of the biggest names in US and Australian wakeboarding history: Keith Lidberg, Sam Collins, Lu Le, Lauren Ornsby, Pat Panakos, Shawn Perry and Reuben Buchanan, as well as wakeskate giants Brian Grubb and Brandon Thomas.

Meanwhile, the next generation of riders proved to be worthy of their parents' wakeboarding legacies. Gov. L-Ray Villafuerte's kids—Miguel, Julio, Gabriella and Luigi—strutted their stuff in their respective divisions, while power couple Ernie and Jeena Lopez's 6-year-old son Blade fearlessly rode with the pros during the latter's exhibition run.

Also spotted testing their wakeboarding skills were celeb hotties Brad Turvey and Marc Nelson.

And if they weren't enough eye candy for spectators, one-third of this year's batch of Miss Earth contestants also held their swimsuit preliminaries at the same venue. Not surprisingly, every full-blooded male within a five-mile radius had a field day taking countless photos of and with the ladies, the riders included. Talk about massive distraction.

2bU! chatted a bit with the bubbly beauties while waiting for the rain to let up. We couldn't resist asking Miss Kazakhstan Zhazira Nurkhodjaeva about "Borat." She just laughed and said she actually found the movie funny and that, contrary to popular belief, the Kazakhs weren't really insulted by it. (Sasha Baron Cohen, you can heave a sigh of relief now.)

Aside from Miss Kazakhstan, the early crowd favorites included Miss Nepal, Miss US Virgin Islands and Alicia Keys look-alike Miss Guatemala.

Tune in to ABS-CBN on Nov. 11, 9:30 p.m., for the live telecast of the Miss Earth 2007 coronation night at the UP Theater.

Win a weekend at CamSur

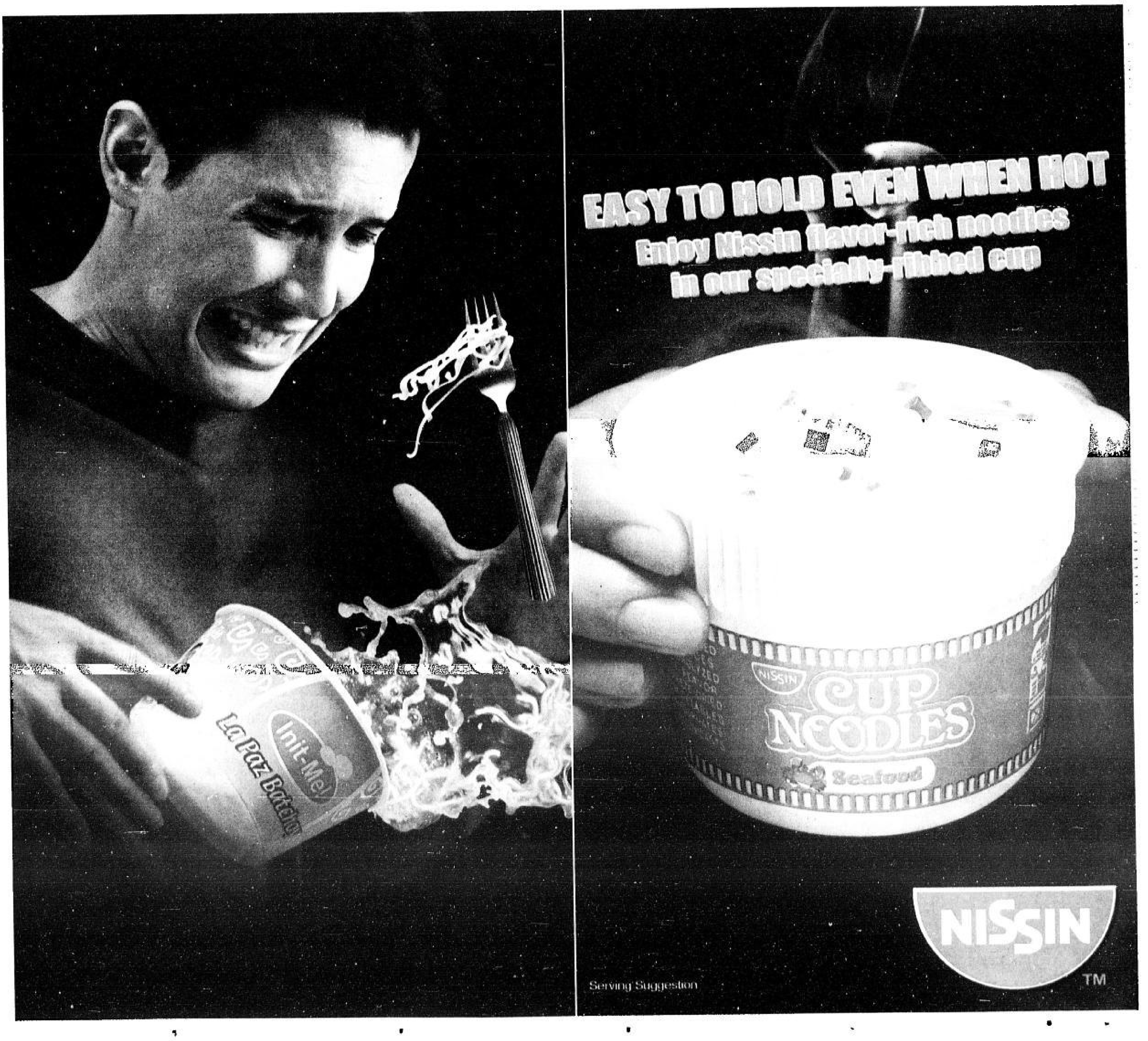
LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? NOW we'll give you the chance to go to CamSur and learn to wakeboard for free!

We'll give five (5) lucky 2bU! readers, along with a friend each, weekend accommodations, travel and wakeboarding lessons at the CamSur Watersports Complex.

All interested readers need to do is e-mail the answers to the following questions to cwc_2bu@yahoo.com.

1. Who reigns as this year's Philippine Cable Wakeboarding Nationals Professional Men's Champ?
2. Name three wakeboarding tricks.
3. What is "goofy foot"?
4. Name three activities you can do in CamSur. (Dig up last week's CamSur special for clues!)
5. What is the name of the world's smallest fish which is found in CamSur?

Be sure to include your full name, address and cell phone numbers in your e-mail. We'll announce the names of the five winners in next week's issue.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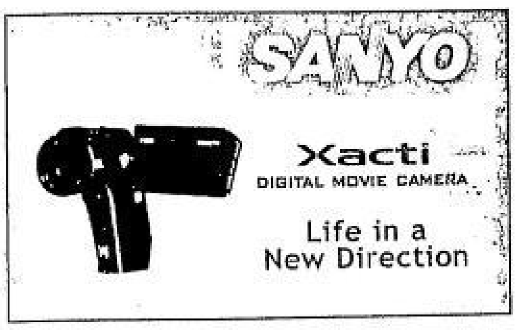
SANYO
Xacti
DIGITAL MOVIE CAMERA
Life in a
New Direction

WEDNESDAY,
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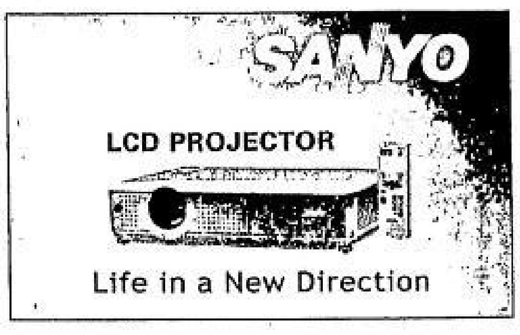
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE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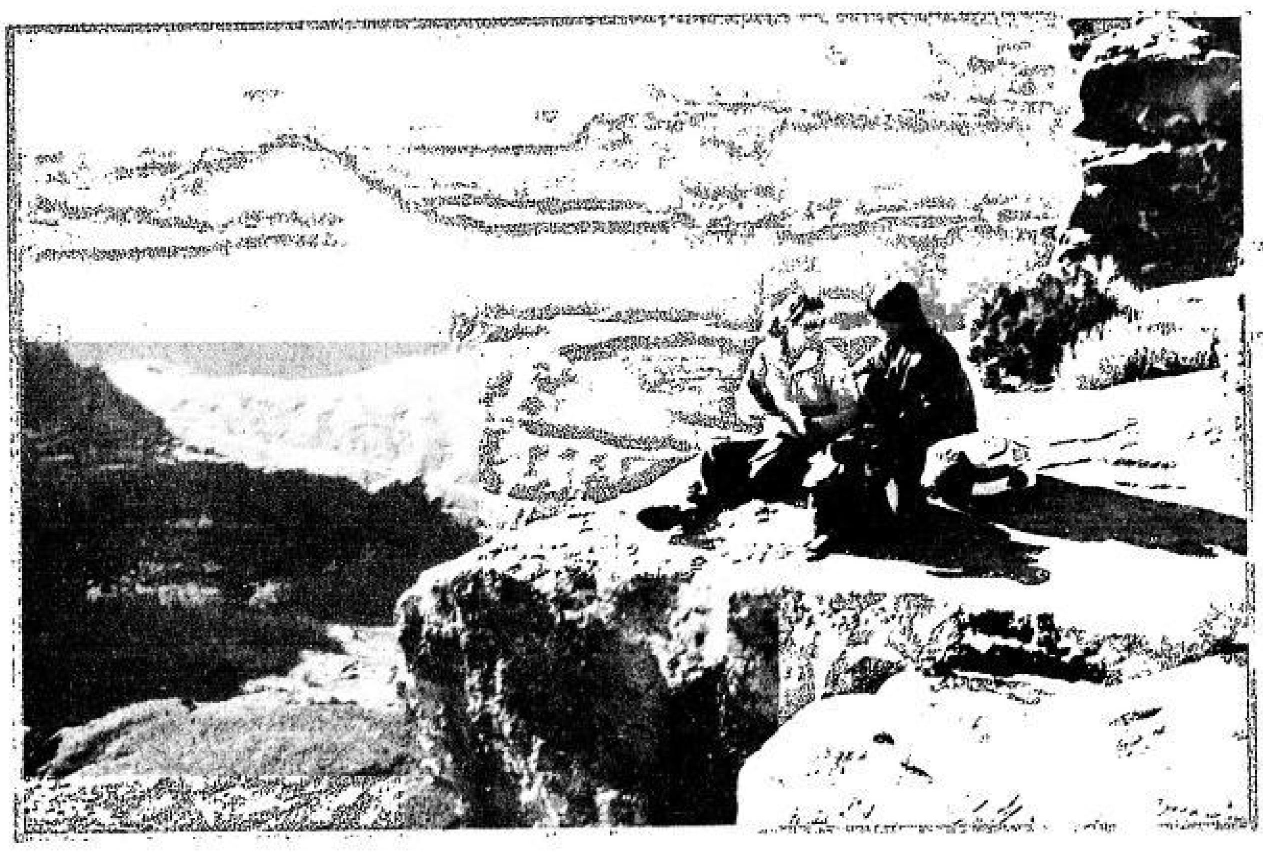
LCD PROJECTOR
Life in a New Direction

Gearing up Pinoys for the great outdoors



THIS is what ROX will look like.

Apart from providing tools and apparel, ROX will have specialists as in-house consultants

By Cheche V. Moral

CAN YOU TAKE THE urban sports enthusiast out of the air-conditioned comfort of his gym and sports club and into the wild outdoors?

Primer Group of Companies seems to believe so. In fact, the company is opening this month its latest and grandest project yet: Recreational Outdoor Exchange (ROX) in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City. ROX is the biggest recreational outdoor hub in all of Southeast Asia, Primer Group owns The Travel Club and Bratpack, and is the local distributor of Samsonite, Victorinox, The North Face and Columbia Sporting Goods.

ROX is patterned after the outdoor sports mega-stores Globetrotter in North America and Europe's Recreational Equipment Inc. or REI. It aims to build a community of Filipino outdoor enthusiasts via its three-level, 1,800-sq m retail hub.

Outdoor sports is relatively new and very niched here, but Roel Chan, Primer's marketing manager, says, "We believe the market has a lot of potential ... We want [to convert] enthusiasts." While they may not become experts or professionals, Chan says ROX will "provide them with the tools of the trade, world-class brands and first-class gear."

ROX is especially targeting those who may already have other interests like badminton but "want to add to their portfolio of sporting activities."

It will cater to those interest-

GEARING/ E3

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TV became
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of mass media
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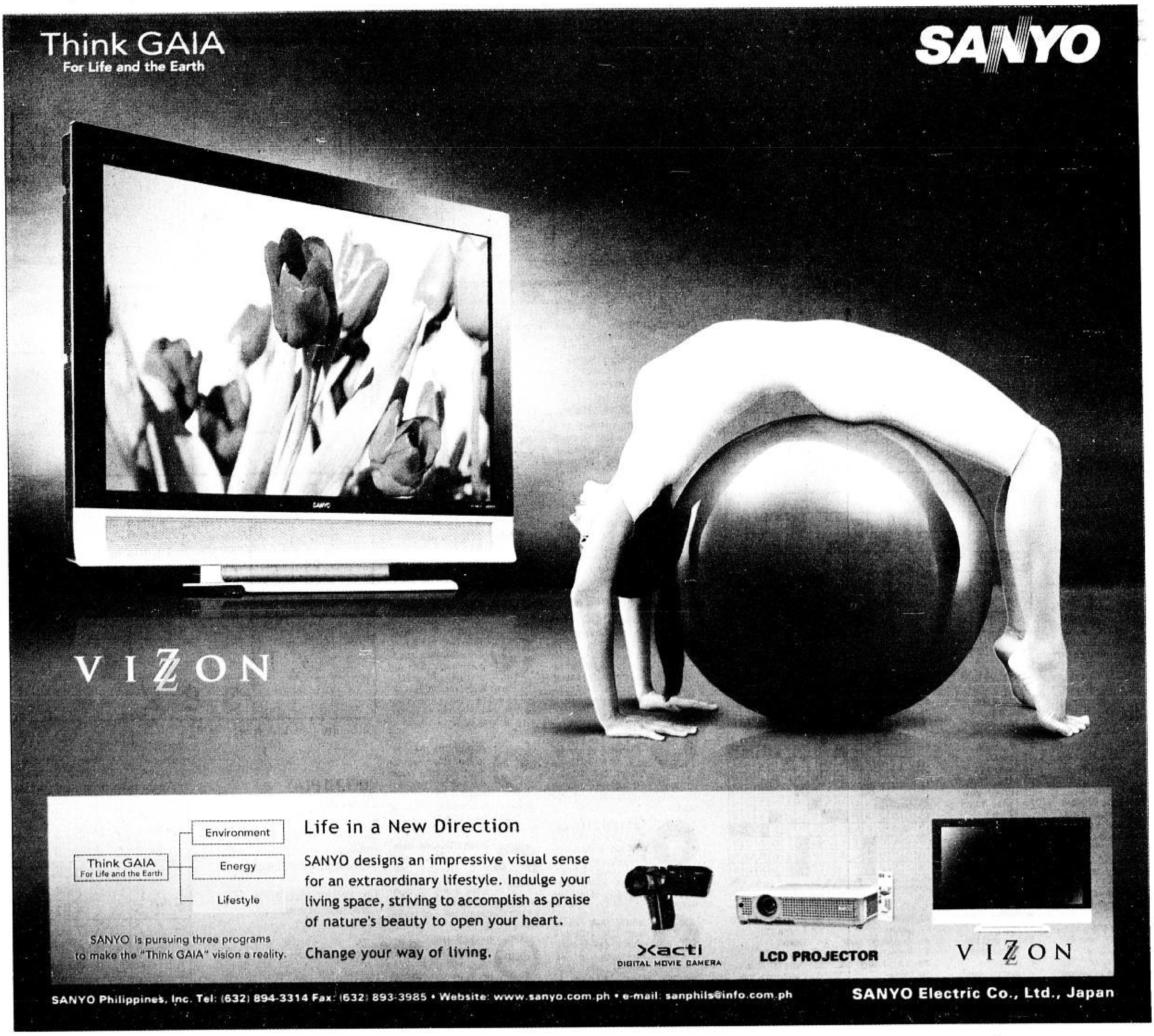
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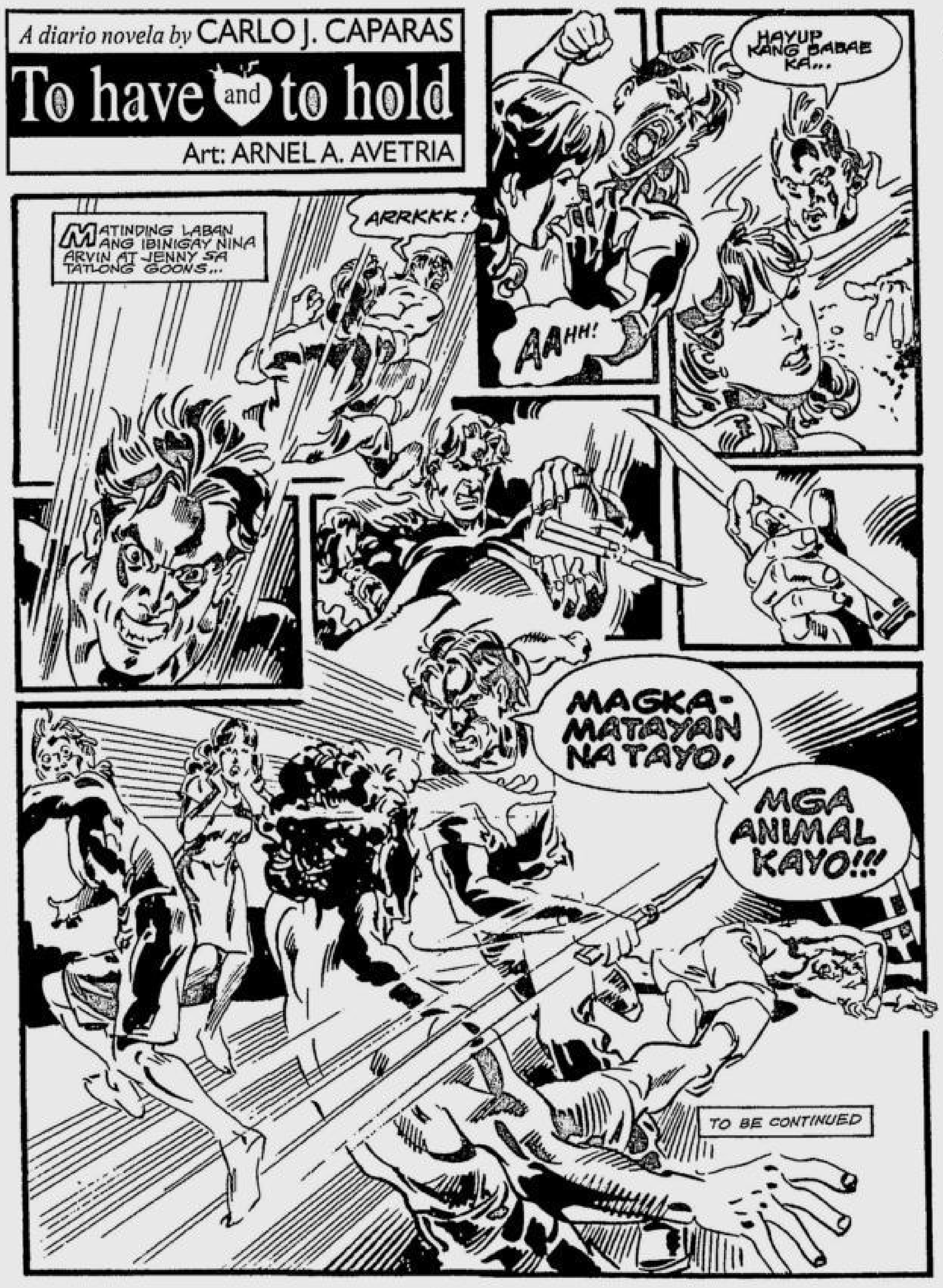
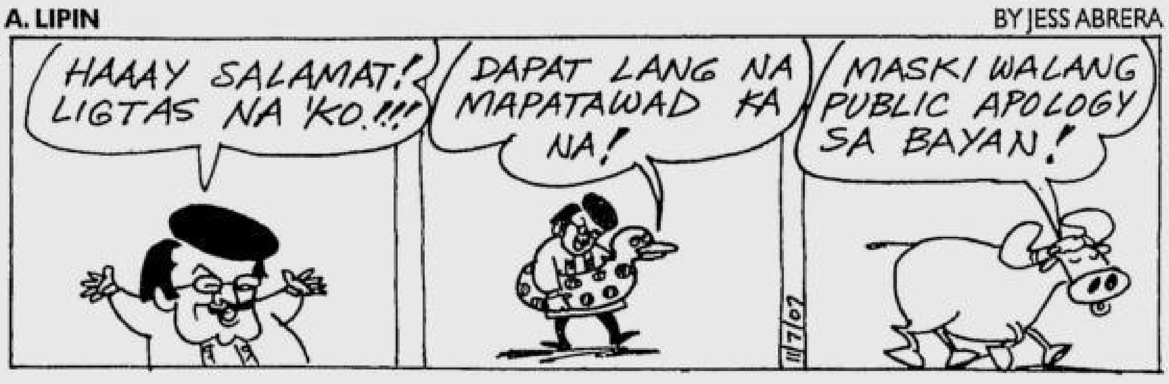
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

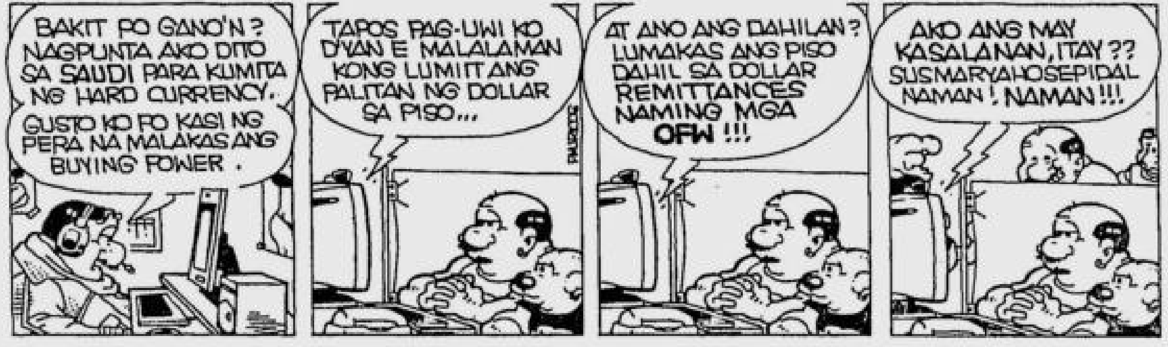
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


MATINDING LABAN ANG IBINIGAY NINA ARVIN AT JENNY SA TATLONG GOONS...
ARRKKK!
AAHH!
HAYUP KANG BABAE KA...
MAGKA-MATAYAN NA TAYO,
MGA ANIMAL KAYO!!!
TO BE CONTINUED

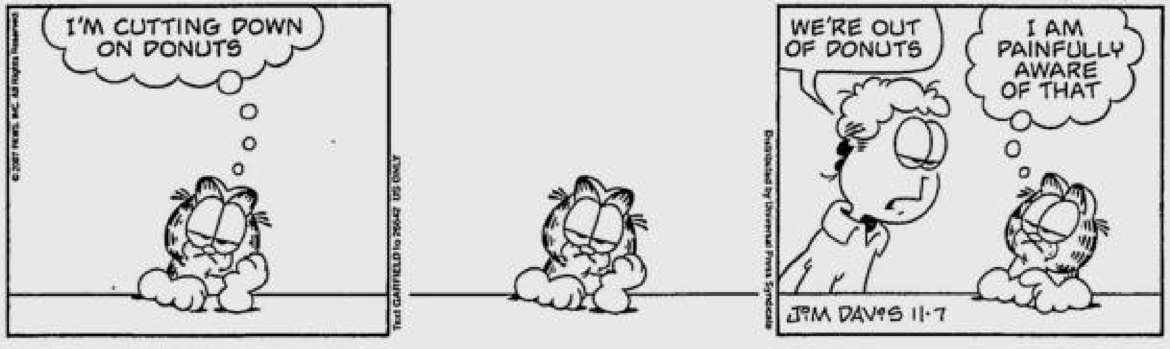
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HAAAY SALAMAT! LIGTAS NA 'KO.!!!
DAPAT LANG NA MAPATAWAD KA NA!
MASKI WALANG PUBLIC APOLOGY SA BAYAN!
11/7/07

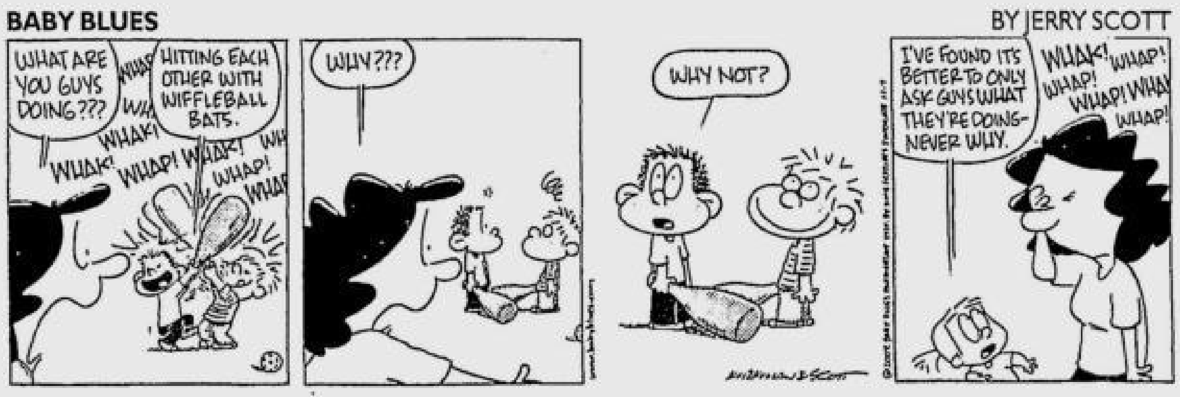
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT PO GANO'N? NAGPUNTA AKO DITO SA SAUDI PARA KUMITA NG HARD CURRENCY.
GUSTO KO PO KASI NG PERA NA MALAKAS ANG BUYING POWER.
TAPOS PAG-UWI KO D'YAN E MALALAMAN KONG LUMIIT ANG PALITAN NG DOLLAR SA PISO...
AT ANO ANG DAHILAN? LUMAKAS ANG PISO DAHIL SA DOLLAR REMITTANCES NAMING MGA OFW!!!
AKO ANG MAY KASALANAN, ITAY?? SUSMARYAHOSEPIDAL NAMAN! NAMAN!!!

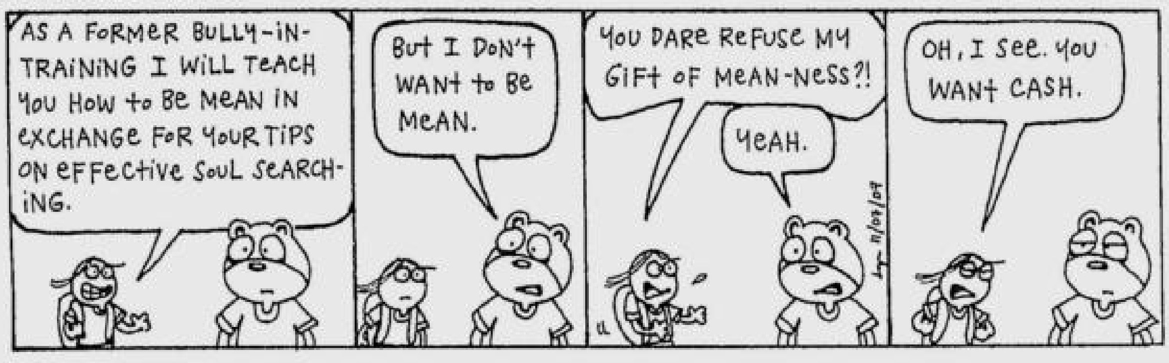
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


I'M CUTTING DOWN ON DONUTS
WE'RE OUT OF DONUTS
I AM PAINFULLY AWARE OF THAT
JIM DAVIS 11-7

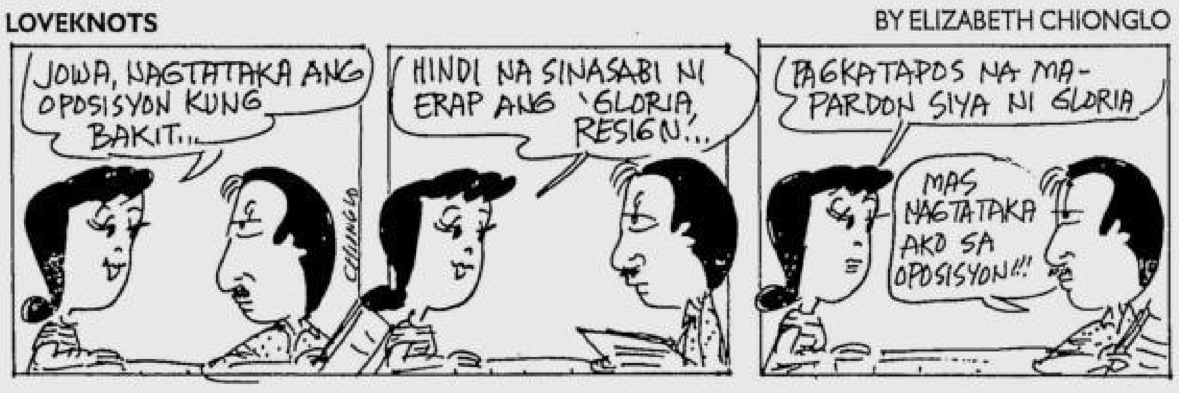
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING???
HITTING EACH OTHER WITH WIFFLEBALL BATS.
WHAK! WHAP! WHAP!
WHY???
WHY NOT?
I'VE FOUND IT'S BETTER TO ONLY ASK GUYS WHAT THEY'RE DOING-NEVER WHY.
WHAK! WHAP! WHAP! WHAP! WHAP!

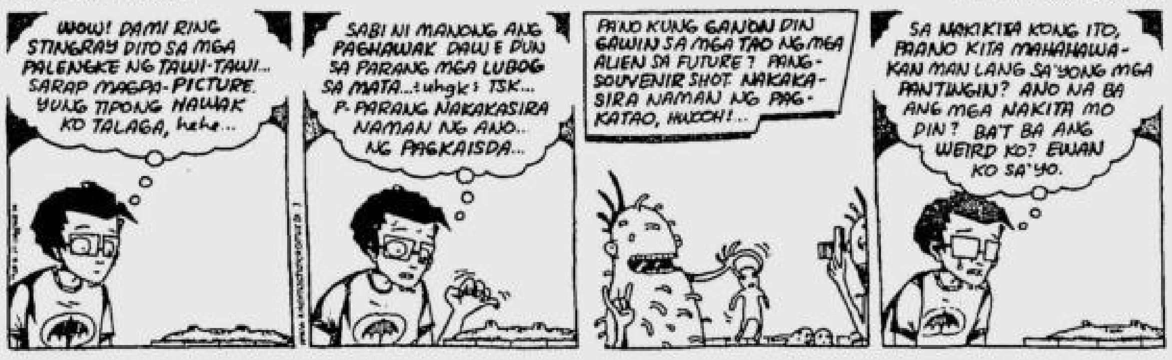
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AS A FORMER BULLY-IN-TRAINING I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO BE MEAN IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR TIPS ON EFFECTIVE SOUL SEARCHING.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE MEAN.
YOU DARE REFUSE MY GIFT OF MEAN-NESS?!
YEAH.
OH, I SEE. YOU WANT CASH.

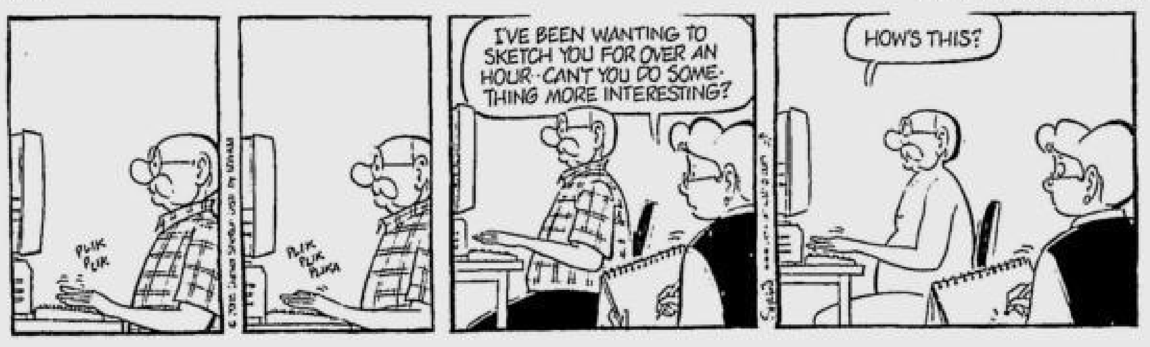
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, NAGTATAKA ANG OPOSISYON KUNG BAKIT...
HINDI NA SINASABI NI ERAP ANG 'GLORIA, RESIGN'...
PAGKATAPOS NA MA-PARDON SIYA NI GLORIA
MAS NAGTATAKA AKO SA OPOSISYON!!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


WOW! DAMI RING STINGRAY DITO SA MGA PALENGKE NG TAWI-TAWI... SARAP MAGPA-PICTURE. YUNG TIPONG HAWAK KO TALAGA, hehe...
SABI NI MANONG ANG PAGHAWAK DAW E PUN SA PARANG MGA LUBOG SA MATA... !uhgk! TSK... P-PARANG NAKAKASIRA NAMAN NG ANO.. NG PAGKAISDA...
PANO KUNG GANON DIN GAWIN SA MGA TAO NG MGA ALIEN SA FUTURE? PANG-SOUVENIR SHOT. NAKAKA-SIRA NAMAN NG PAG-KATAO, HUCCH!...
SA NAKIKITA KONG ITO, PAANO KITA MAHAHAWA-KAN MAN LANG SA'YONG MGA PANTINGIN? ANO NA BA ANG MGA NAKITA MO DIN? BA'T BA ANG WEIRD KO? EWAN KO SA'YO.

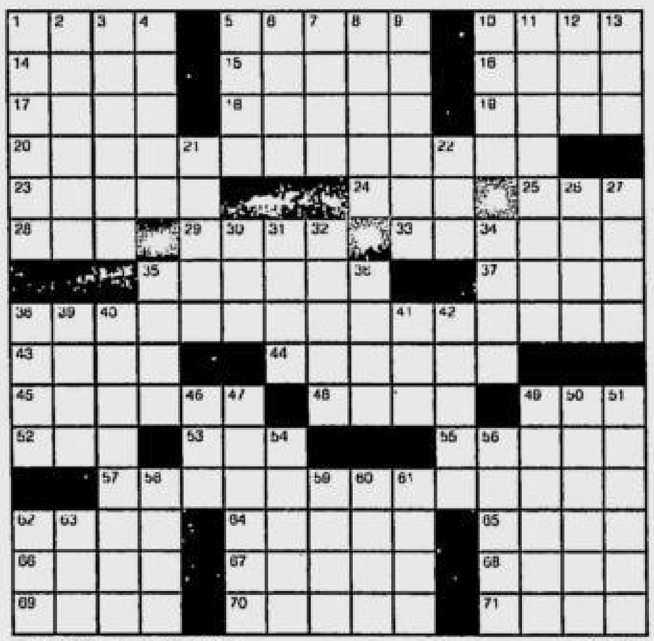
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLIK PLIK
PLIK PLIK PLIKA
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SKETCH YOU FOR OVER AN HOUR-CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING?
HOW'S THIS?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sweater eater
5 Hefty chunks
10 Norse god
14 Gillette blade
15 River boat honcho
16 Floor covering
17 Seasonal song
18 Writer Calvino
19 Capri or Wight
20 Assassin's agenda?
23 Beethoven dedicatee
24 Vicious of the Sex Pistols
25 Tummy muscles
28 Played the first card
29 __-majesty
33 Part of Wessex
35 Tender
37 __ boy!
38 Longest rap sheet award?
43 Gen. Bradley
44 Reporter's pay scale
45 Deadly snakes
48 California wine valley
49 Ninny
52 Tarzan on TV
53 Barker and Bell
55 "The Divine Comedy" poet
57 Ratfink's annual award?
62 Comet rival
64 Type of larva
65 Wrongful act
66 Byron poem
67 Ward off
68 Length x width
69 Muslim leader
70 Gay city of song
71 Vietnam's neighbor

DOWN
1 Shelf over a fireplace
2 Peter of "The Lion in Winter"
3 Timorous
4 Obeys a sentry
5 Rotate rapidly
6 Vilnius lang.
7 Jai __
8 Lightning strikes
9 Impassive
10 Singer Redding
11 Aversion
12 Unwell
13 Born as
21 Moray hunter
22 Nuptial vow
26 Letter from Greece
27 Play the lead
30 Extremity
31 Sm. runway aircraft
32 Fairylike
34 Madcap Martha
35 Impale on a tusk
36 Sicilian volcano
38 Wander
39 "__ and the Detectives"
40 Large semiaquatic rodent
41 Gen. Arnold's nickname
42 Italian island group
46 Rental ad abbr.
47 Petty ruler
49 Long-haired cat
50 Mono successor
51 Some mattresses
54 Auto-racer Tom
56 Conductor Dorati
58 Test
59 German river
60 Electricity line
61 Overfill
62 Will Smith role
63 Traffic snarl


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
11/7/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	I	D	S	■	S	P	A	M	■	A	S	O	F
C	A	N	A	L	■	L	A	R	A	■	M	A	X	I
E	N	S	U	E	■	A	W	A	Y	■	A	L	E	X
■	■	■	B	E	A	N	S	B	A	R	T	E	Y	E
C	P	A	■	T	N	T	■	■	P	R	I	M	E	D
R	E	M	A	I	N	■	A	L	P	S	■	■	■	■
O	N	I	C	E	■	I	D	O	L	■	E	L	S	A
W	A	S	H	R	I	C	E	W	E	D	D	I	N	G
E	L	S	E	■	R	O	L	E	■	I	G	L	O	O
■	■	■	■	N	O	N	E	■	P	A	Y	T	O	N
S	U	S	A	N	N	■	■	C	O	M	■	S	K	Y
T	H	E	N	E	W	S	P	A	P	E	R	■	■	■
R	U	N	G	■	E	L	A	M	■	T	O	A	D	Y
U	R	D	U	■	E	A	R	P	■	E	R	R	O	R
M	A	S	S	■	D	Y	E	S	■	R	Y	A	N	S

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11/7/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're naturally curious; therefore, you observe life around you. You have a strong sense of adventure and are keen to explore whatever appeals to you. This is why you learn a lot. You always respond to challenges. People think you're entertaining and charming. (You hate ho-hum boredom.) Fortunately, the year ahead will be full of exciting, new adventures. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Joni Mitchell, singer/songwriter; Dr. Marie Curie, Nobel Prize-winning physicist/chemist; Joan Sutherland, soprano.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be on the lookout for unexpected gifts and goodies that come your way today. Keep your pockets open. It's a good day to negotiate for anything you want

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A close friend or partner might surprise you today. You both might go somewhere different or unusual. Something very modern or groundbreaking could occur.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New technology related to your job or even your health might amaze you today. Bright, new ideas about how to be self-employed will occur to many of you. It's an invigorating day!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Love at first sight is possible today. All kinds of fun things can happen suddenly. However, parents should be extra vigilant about children

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is the perfect day to introduce new technology to your home. Sudden, unexpected things could occur. People might drop by. (Stock the fridge.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a classic day to meet new people or encounter new ideas and new places. Be ready to change your schedule at a moment's notice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're full of wonderful, bright ideas today. In particular, you might dream up new ways of making money or discover new sources of income. Similarly, you'll find new ways of spending it as well!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): For a number of reasons, today is full of excitement. You're ready for adventure. You're up for new experiences. You feel unusually independent and daring today. (Woo, woo!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A sudden realization about something quite important could occur to you today. Whatever this realization is will be liberating in some way. You see that you no longer have to do something or think a certain way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Expect to meet someone quite unusual or different today. Alternatively, people you already know might do something that surprises you. It's an interesting day

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs are unpredictable today. If they come on too heavy, however, you'll run away because you feel a bit rebellious.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Something different and unusual will occur today. In large measure, this is because you're ready for it. However, the stars are going to help this happen as well!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

1		2				3		
	6		1		7		5	
		3				6		
	9		4		1		3	8
				5				
	3	5	2	6	8	1	9	
		8				7		
		1				4		
			3	8	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/07

2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	2	8	1	3	5	6	9
6	8	1	7	9	5	3	2	4
5	3	9	6	4	2	8	1	7
3	6	4	1	5	8	7	9	2
1	2	8	9	6	7	4	3	5
7	9	5	3	2	4	1	8	6
9	4	7	2	3	1	6	5	8
2	5	3	4	8	6	9	7	1
8	1	6	5	7	9	2	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★

Frozen fruit delights

Password

Serena Gelb

I LOVE TO COOK. I'M CONSTANTLY experimenting with new entrees, breakfast foods and especially desserts. One of the quickest and most satisfyingly healthy desserts I've made are fruit popsicles. For these, you can use bananas, pomelos, mangoes, pineapples, melons, etc... Cut them into bite-size chunks and dip them into melted dark chocolate. Next, lay them on a plate and pop 'em in the freezer for a couple of hours. To make them easy to eat, stick a popsicle stick (available in any grocery store like Rustan's) right through them before freezing.

Voila! That's all you need to do to make an easy, healthy, low-calorie treat that will satisfy your cravings.

The dark chocolate complements the sweetness of the banana, or the tartness of the pomelo. This is the best way to get your daily dose of Vitamin C if you're not a natural fruit lover. It doesn't matter what fruits you have lying about. Whichever fruit you choose will work well with the bittersweet taste of dark chocolate.

Also, if you have an excess amount of fruit in your house that you don't think you'll eat, the perfect solution is to freeze them!

Whenever my friends are around or my mom has company, I make sure to serve them some of my frozen pomelo popsicles. Everyone loves them! At first, of course, they seem skeptical of the odd mix of pomelo citrus and dark chocolate, but once they taste the popsicles their opinion completely changes.

> Whenever my friends are around or my mom has company, I make sure to serve them some of my fruit popsicles

Almost no one thinks that these two seemingly opposite ingredients would mix, but the combination of citrus with chocolate has long been a classic. For instance, candied orange peel dipped in chocolate is sold in many high-quality groceries.

This is my tropical innovation and you can make it your own.

Hold your horses, there is more! Did you know that dark chocolate has been proven to burn fat? This is not a joke. It's a true miracle ingredient. It contains many antioxidants and is beneficial to your health when used without milk. However, this is your warning: If you are looking to reap the benefits of chocolate's magical fat-burning properties, make sure you use dark chocolate.

Even a splash of milk or any other dairy will nullify the effects, so please don't use milk or white chocolate. Plus, chocolate also releases endorphins into your bloodstream, which is why people love it so much. And you don't have to feel guilty after this "high."

Try the fruit popsicles yourself and your taste buds (and waistline) will thank you. You can munch on them all day while working on homework, watching TV, reading or just chilling out. They are a perfect replacement for your greasy potato chips or fastfood cheeseburger. And since they're frozen and made of solid fruits, they take a while to eat. That means they are filling, too, and you can't just gobble them up like chips.

E-mail the author at serenaswam@gmail.com

Gearing up . . .

From page E1

ed in hiking and camping, climbing (rock and indoor), cycling and trail running, water sports like rafting and canoeing, and adventure travel.

Expert advice

Apart from providing tools and apparel, the store will have outdoor specialists as in-house consultants. Foreign and local instructors will also hold sports clinics.

When it opens this month, three experts from Japan, Australia and the United States will give seminars and clinics.

Designed to be an experiential and interactive environment by the Hong Kong-based Red Goodss Ltd., ROX will have testing rooms for the products: a Rain Room, for instance, for outerwear.

A kayak pool will be temporarily installed in the vicinity. As the gears are very technical, areas will be set up for testing gadgets like camping burners and water filters.

In addition, there will be a café inside with an all-organic menu.

"At first the design was complicated," says Terry Waterhouse, Red Goodss director. "(Then we) simplified it because we wanted to make the product and the customer experience the hero, not the architecture or interior design ... It's creating a customer journey that makes them comfortable, (giving them) access (to) the product and the experience without being bombarded by aesthetics."

The firm, according to Primer Group president Jimmy Thai, thought of this kind of store five years ago, long before a Filipino reached the peak of Mt. Everest.

The project was fast-tracked following the recent feats of Everest climbers like Romy Garduce who inspired many Filipinos to consider outdoor sports.

"Romy is a working guy with a 9-to-5 job," Chan says. "[The thinking is] if he can do it, maybe I can, too. If not Everest then maybe something else."

The protection of the environment is a primary thrust of the Primer Group, which supports and sponsors local scientists and outdoor athletes.

"We're not just riding on the Al Gore bandwagon. We've been advocating this from the start ... If there's no mountain, there's no climber. If there's no climber, we don't have a business," says Chan.

"We provide the outdoor experience that will sustain the consciousness for the conservation of the environment. You can't say let's save the trees when you haven't seen the trees. We want people to go out there and have that positive feeling when they come back and get into positive action. We're not just saying it, we're doing something about it."

TERRY Waterhouse, ROX store designer: "You can employ world-famous names to design a store, but the problem is invariably their ego or personality."

JIMMY Thai, who credits brother Johnny for most of the ideas behind ROX, says the store is an appropriate venue to bring attention to the biodiversity of environment.

ROEL Chan: "We provide the outdoor experience that would sustain the consciousness for the conservation of the environment."

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

Experiential

Thai adds: "We can discuss it, debate about it, but unless you really experience the environment, how are you to claim you're concerned with ecology?"

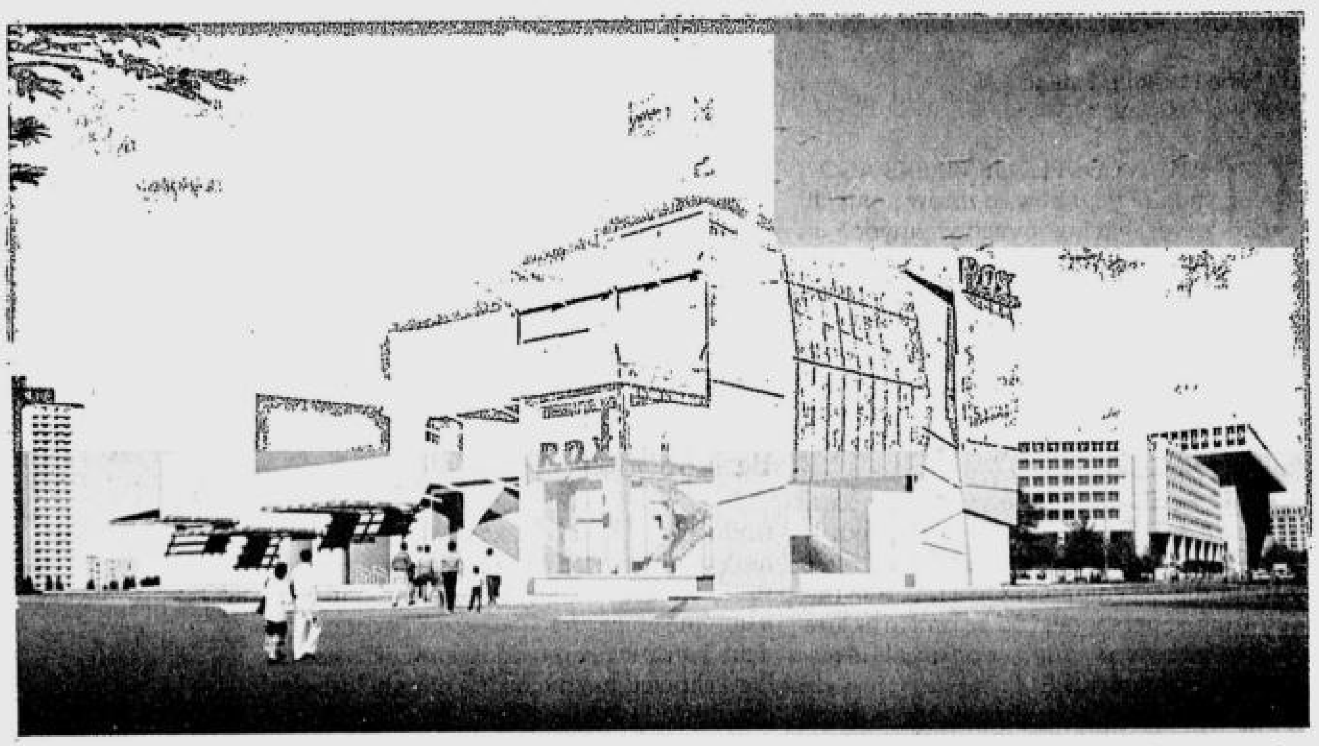
ROX will serve as an outdoor research center. A kiosk will let customers book trips and provide them with maps, videos and other helpful information. It will organize local climbs, as well as expeditions to other countries.

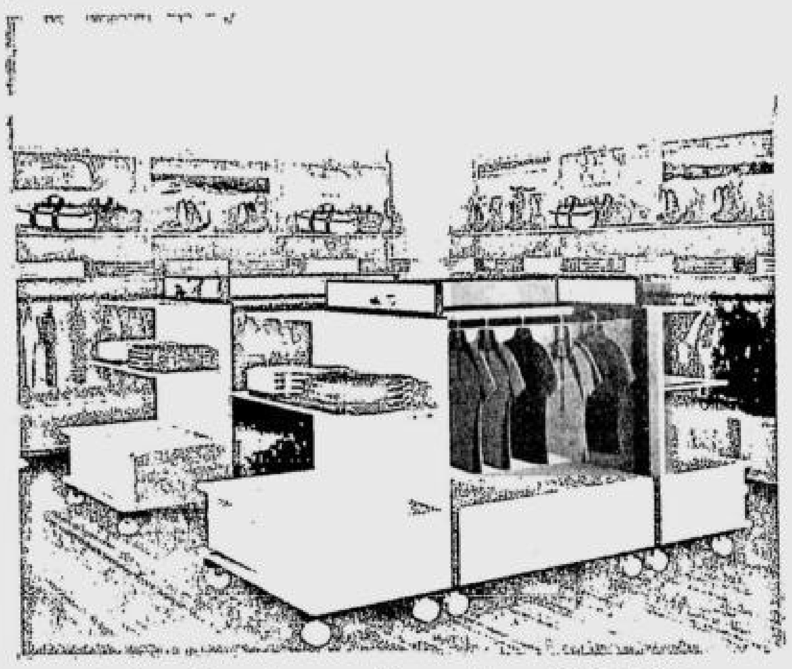
Chan says the future of outdoor recreation in the Philippines is immense, despite concerns like security and accessibility.

"Not many know we have the best surfing spots. No matter how rich a country is, you just can't duplicate this. But there's the infrastructure problem. If you go to Bali, immediately there's an airport near where you surf. We traveled nine hours on rough road to reach Baler in Aurora ... The role of the government is also important in developing interest for outdoor sports. But we're repackaging (outdoor recreation); we say the travel is part of the adventure."

"Remote areas (not served) by Philippine Airlines before are now reached by other airlines," adds Me Ann Santos, ROX marketing and sales senior director. "This makes more Filipinos able to travel now. We just have to let them know that there are places here that are even better than foreign destinations. They should travel in their own country first and experience the outdoors."

As for the pros, ROX will be an opportunity to upgrade as the store is bringing in 30 exclusive and technical brands. "Most enthusiasts order on the Internet and, as we can't replicate the store for Davao and Cebu, we're getting into e-commerce," Chan says. "Less freight and custom charges ... Our benchmark is US prices and our goal is to make products locally accessible."





ROX design perspective by Red Goodss Ltd

They've got game

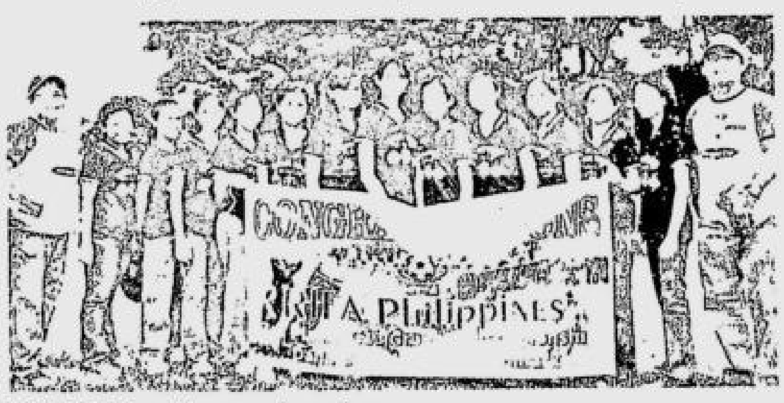
GIRLS goofing off

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jesse Herrera

The all-girl Rizal Football Association has competed and gained respect in Europe

AT 13 YEARS OLD, MOST LITTLE girls just watch their favorite TV shows or browse through various teen magazines—and that's perfectly fine. But there are a few who choose to make their lives a little less ordinary by excelling in their chosen fields at their age.

The RIFA (Rizal Football Association) Philippine team is full of such girls. The team, composed of female soccer players aged 13-14, recently won third place in the Group B Division of the Dana Cup, which was held in Denmark last July. The team was also the lone Southeast Asian entry to the Norway Cup which was held in Oslo last July and August; for this competition, they made it to the quarter finals.



THE TEAM and its proud coaches

While they didn't walk away with the top prizes in the tournaments, the fact that they made it as far as Europe is already a big deal for the players; after all, the team started training only last February under the guidance of coaches Emma and Poten Fernandez, with most of the players having about three years' experience in playing the game.

The players come from different elementary and high schools. They are: Pat Depante, Aira dela Cruz, Ynez Gonzalez, Miela Lilles, Angela Nguyen, and Sofia Sanzon from Woodrose; Nikki de Leon and Inna Palacios from Colegio de San Agustin; Sun Mi Hwang and Camille Rodriguez from Miriam College; and Marsha Catandijan-Nackaerts and Riana Santos from the Holistic Education and Development Center.

Loving the game

"All the girls have been playing soccer for several years now with their respective schools," said Vita Depante, one of the coaches and managers of the team. "All of them, without any exception, love the game. They practice and play rain or shine!"

"This is the first time that a Philippine team played in the Norway Cup which is considered one of the biggest youth football tournaments in the world," Depante said. "Several of the players went to the Visayas last summer as part of their training. They competed in several tournaments in Dumaguete, San Carlos City, Sta. Barbara and Barotac Nuevo in Iloilo."

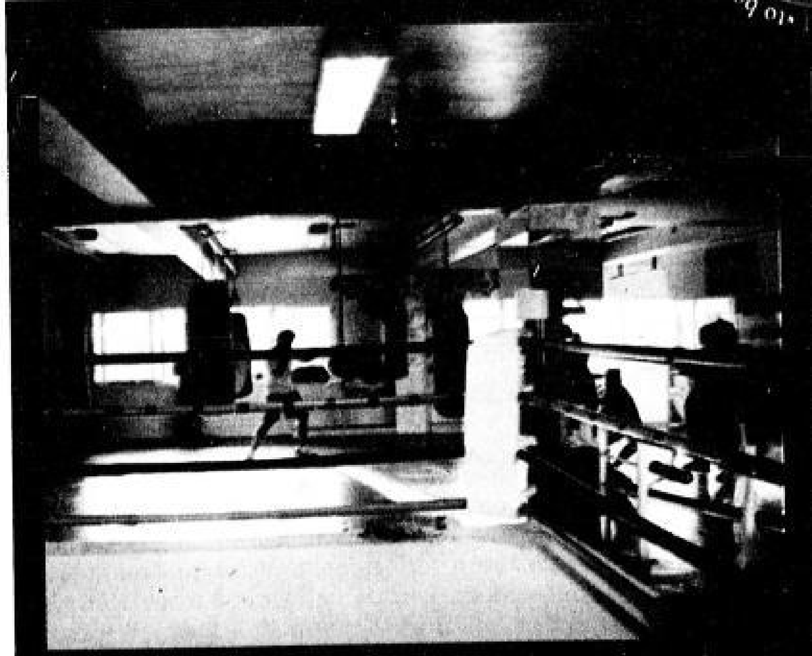
The RIFA Philippine team also won or placed significantly in several tournaments, such as first runner-up in the U17 RIFA Summer Football Tournament, second runner-up in the General's Cup in Villamor Airbase Protacio Field, and champion in the 2007 Milo Cup at ASCOM Field in Fort Bonifacio.

ATHLETE in action

But serious sports aside, the girls also love hanging out with their teammates at the mall to watch movies or just hang out. But on the field, they're serious players with a mission. "Coach Poten made it a point to let the girls play in tournaments where their opponents are at least two years older," Depante said. "The Europeans are usually much bigger and taller, but we want the girls to work hard. And of course, they're always up to the challenge."

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

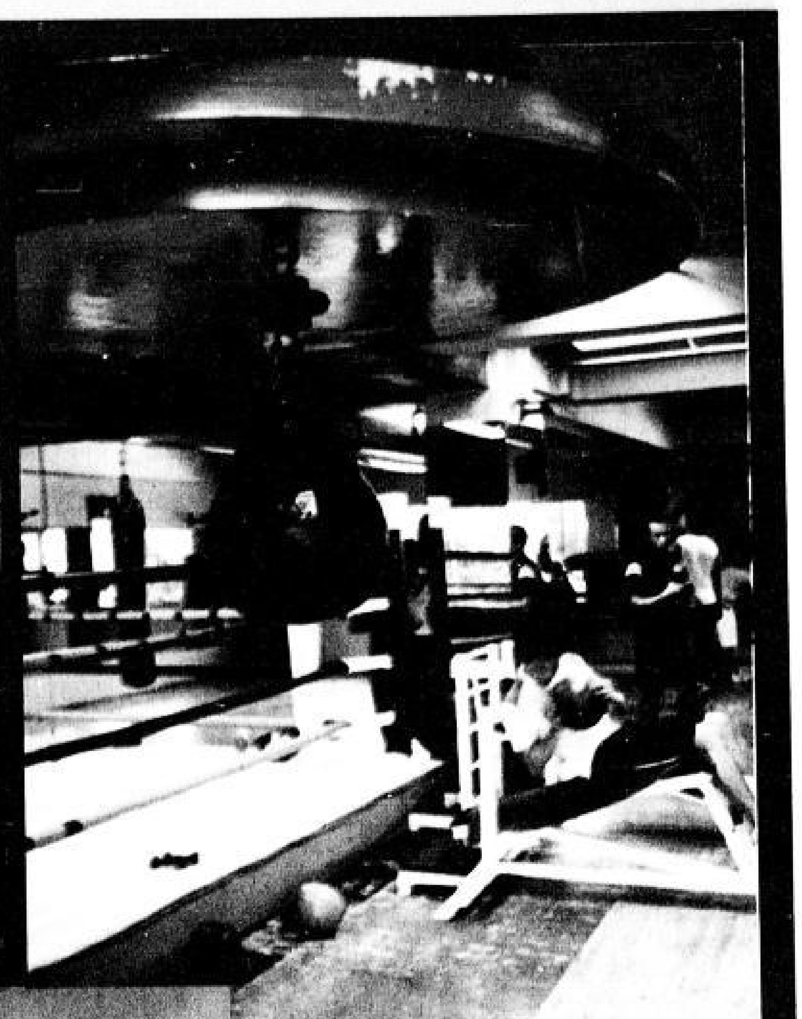
Visit the photographer at http://martinjesseherrera.multiply.com



INSIDE Ringside Boxing Gym

ONE of Ringside's boxing coaches observing a sparring session

GUYS aren't the only ones hooked on boxing. The sport is proving to be popular with girls as well.



WARM-UP exercises, including some stretching, are performed before the actual boxing training.

KNOCKOUT sport

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

UNTIL A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, I didn't know how to throw a punch, never having punched anyone in my life. But I still wanted to learn some macho-man moves for self-defense—in case a guy picks up a fight with me and I have to save face by saying yes. I decided to walk into a boxing club for a trial lesson.

I live in the south and the most popular boxing gym located in the area is Ringside Boxing Club in Alabang.

Ianne Borillo, Ringside managing partner, gave me this pitch: "Our main product is service. Unlike most gyms that offer state-of-the-art equipment, we invest in the best-trained personnel and boxers to assure quality, safety and efficient physical development of our clients."

I knew I was in good hands when I met my coaches for the day, Greg Chavez and Jun Tomagan.

Greg facilitated my warm-up exercises, which consisted of stretching, bending, lifting and some cardio. Having done some yoga in the past, I enjoyed bending all over and doing all the stretching positions. It started to be frustrating though when it came to the other exercises, like the seemingly easy three-minute jumping rope session, which had me gasping for breath and stopping to rest less than three minutes into my routine.

The leg lifts and stomach crunches were also very challenging, especially with some sort of bowling ball and a huge plastic bounce ball incorporated into the exercises.

Basic position

Jun, on the other hand, handled the introductory boxing exercises. First, he taught me the basic position: a centered stand with feet apart, knees bent, and fists near the face for defense. Second, he demonstrated some footwork. My coach then showed me the different punches: the jab, the hook, the cross and the uppercut.

Once I knew the basic position, the footwork and the punches, I had to do a series of combined movements. For example, I had to move forward and then throw a couple of jabs, move back and do some hooks, move left and throw some crosses, and then move right and do a couple of uppercuts.

Now, I am an extremely shy person when it comes to certain situations, and this was definitely one of them. I actually felt stupid doing my routine, overly conscious that I was surrounded by several boxing enthusiasts who looked fit and movie-ready with their jabs and hooks. I even found myself giggling at what I was doing!

Jun was very warm yet professional. While joking around to make me feel more at ease, he also bluntly told me to stop being conscious and shy, because I was in a gym and was doing what people there should be doing: learning while sweating.

When it was time to punch Jun, first-time puncher me hit him like I was hitting my grandmother—all uncertainty and concern. I was over-analyzing things, not sure if I was doing the punches correctly and a little afraid that I was going to hurt him. As if I was really capable of hurting my huge, brawny expert coach.

Sensing my hesitation, Jun told me to hit him harder, and to look at him as the person I hated the most. After a few punches, he told me I must really hate the person I was thinking of, because my punches were starting to hurt him! That broke the ice for us. It was one passionate punch after another after that.

THE GYM offers various boxing programs, Muay Thai kicking, plyometrics and circuit training.

After my boxing lesson, I was soaked in sweat, was starting to feel pain in certain areas of my body and was ready to devour anything

Huge challenge

During one of several three-minute breaks, I was able to watch a live match between two of Ringside's boxers, and it was entertaining to see how focused they were. In my case, it would take many more lessons before I could be dragged inside the ring. For crying out loud, even that small and annoying punching bag was a huge challenge for me. It met my face a couple of times, and it was so tricky I almost vowed not to leave the place until I could hit it without my face getting smacked in return.

Ringside, which in four years has already expanded to seven gyms all over the metro, is staffed by 35 of the best trainers in the country. It offers several boxing programs, from Beginner to Intermediate to Advanced. It also offers Muay Thai kicking, plyometrics and circuit training under a group atmosphere, plus an Elite program where clients are provided one-on-one services.

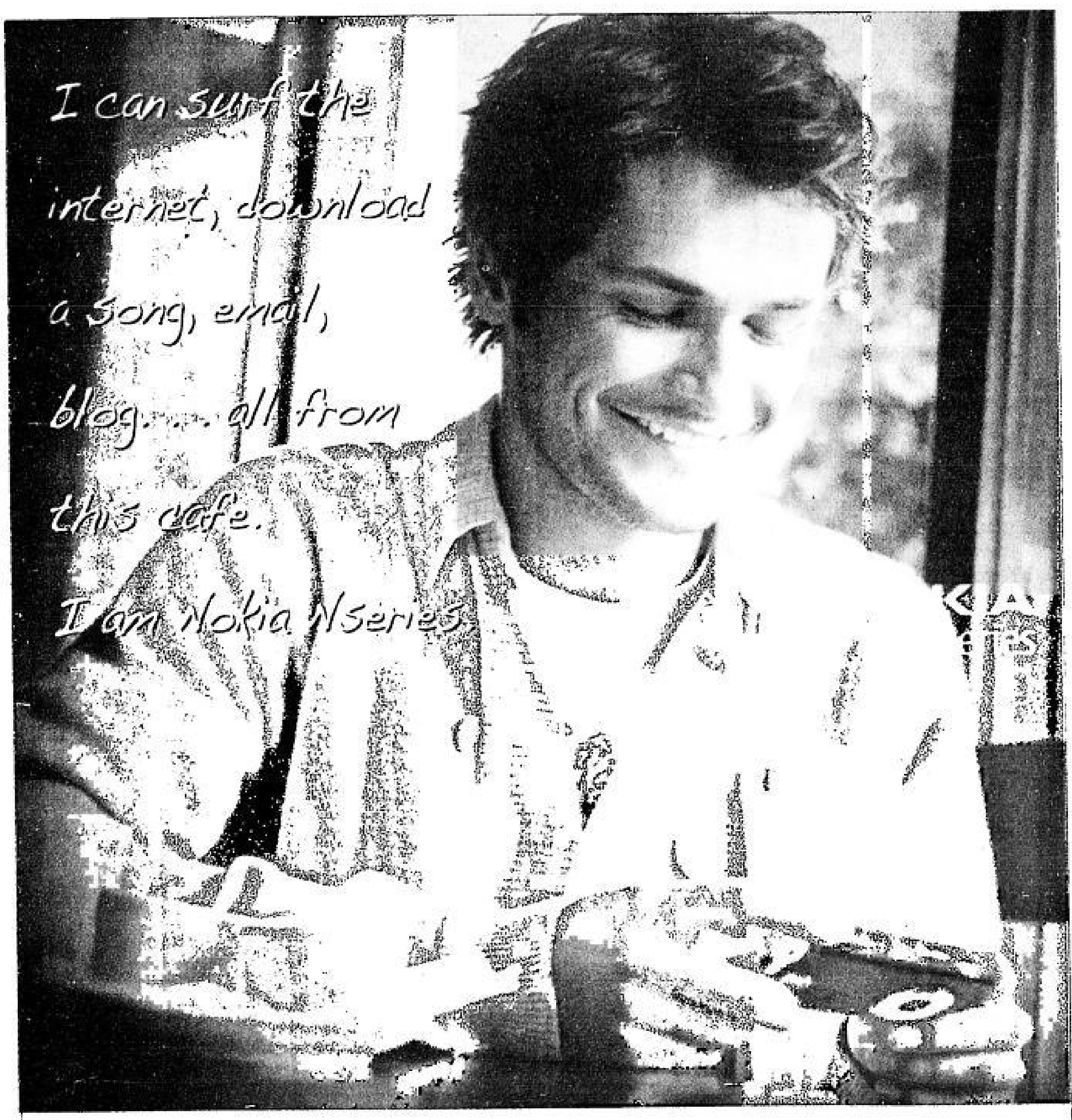
After my boxing lesson, I was soaked in sweat, was starting to feel pain in certain areas of my body and was ready to devour anything. I was also ready to sign up for my Beginner program. After all, boxing is said to improve our moods by increasing the blood and oxygen supply to the brain and body. It also counteracts depression (and premenstrual tension in women) by decreasing salt retention caused by high hormone levels, improves deep sleep, and is one of the most effective workouts for weight loss, endurance and speed development.

The sport is also an avenue for interpersonal development, something very beneficial for shy, insecure and overly conscious people like me.

The day after my trial lesson I woke up as pain personified. I considered giving up boxing, but the thought of that small and annoying punching bag just made me want to go back to Ringside and show it what I've got.

Ringside Boxing Club is located at 4/F, Corporate Center, 1906 Finance Road, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang. Call 8427401.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com



I can surf the internet, download a song, email, blog.... all from this cafe.
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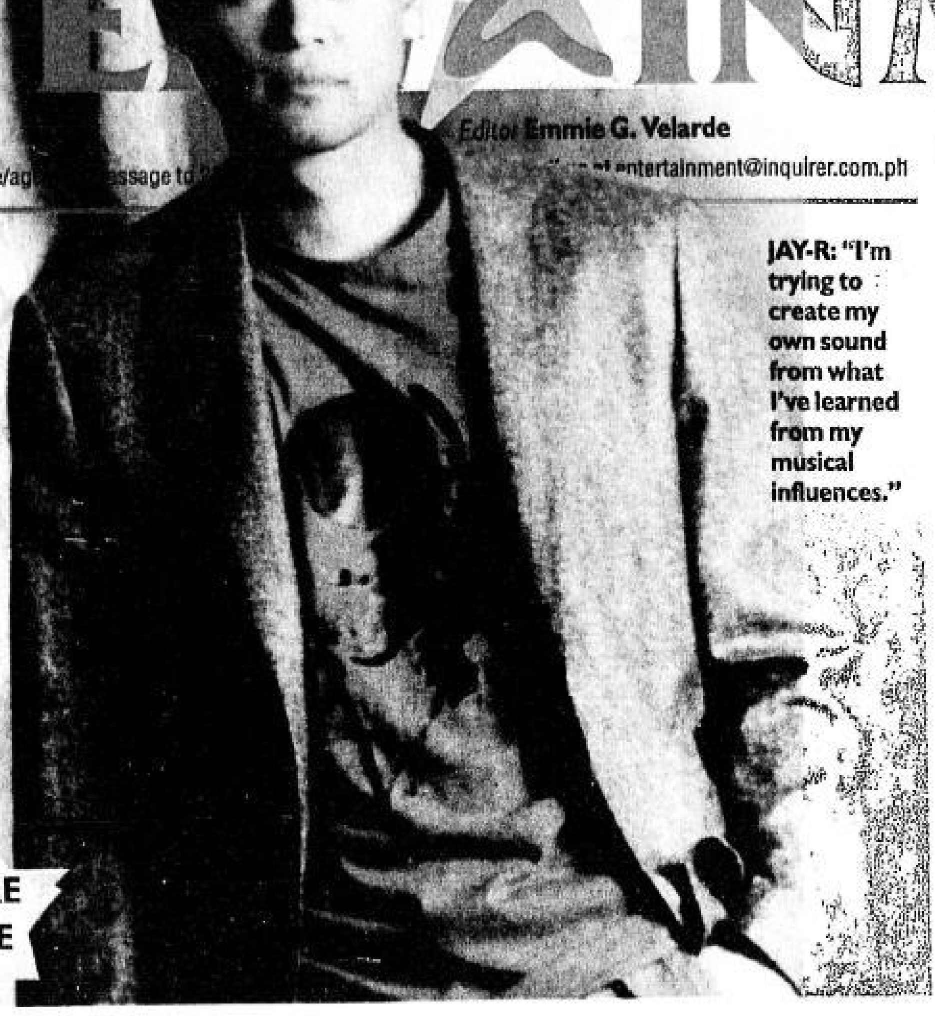

JAY-R: "I'm trying to create my own sound from what I've learned from my musical influences."

'Killer hooks and nailing a distinct vibe—I think those are the key elements that make a platinum rhythm and blues song'

The soul of true R&B

TAKE FIVE

By Pocholo Concepcion

WHY IS RHYTHM AND BLUES ONE OF THE most favored and influential musical styles among contemporary Pinoy singers?

Maybe, just as how foreign artists capture the depths of the human condition in this originally Afro-American genre, R&B allows the likes of Jay-R to fully express themselves.

Born in Glendale, California, Jay-R (real name: Gaudencio Aquino Sillona III) is one of several Fil-Americans trying to make their mark in the local music scene.

At 26, he's been quite successful—having recorded three albums, appeared in several films and commercials, and is a regular fixture on a weekly TV show.

It remains to be seen whether Jay-R would gain recognition as a major "Pinoy R&B" artist. But he appears to be working hard at it—given the limitations and inadequacies of his knowledge and experience.

You grew up hearing music that your siblings played at home. What particular incident made you want to become a singer?

I saw all the cool gigs my sister used to book and I wanted to do the same. She also used to sing in front of huge audiences and that inspired me to start tuning my craft.

You're described as an R&B singer. How would you define R&B in the context of being a Filipino born in the USA?

R&B is the same to Filipinos born in the US or in the Philippines. It's soulful and smooth-sounding music with melodies that take you on rides.

Who are your favorite R&B artists?

Luther Vandross is one of my favorite singers. He has a way of placing his voice that is impossible to duplicate. I grew up listening mostly to Tevin Campbell, Maxwell, Brian McKnight, Donell Jones, Lenny Kravitz, Boyz II Men, Atlantic Starr, Blackstreet and a lot more.

How have you been influenced by these artists? How did you channel these influences into your own albums?

These artists influenced my style of singing in many ways. However, I still try to create my own sound from what I have learned from these different types of singers. I don't like sounding like anyone else but me.

Which do you consider are the greatest R&B songs of all time?

I think the greatest all-time classic R&B songs would be either "Me and Mrs. Jones," "What's Going On," "Superstar" or "Love Won't Let Me Wait."

What makes an R&B song sell by the millions?

Killer hooks and nailing a distinct vibe—I think those are the key elements that make a platinum song.

Why do you think most Pinoy R&B singers sound so much alike, as if they're trying to emulate one and the same vocal style or technique?

It's because they're all in the genre of R&B. Most of the singers in alternative rock or other genres like opera sound similar to each other as well. It's all a matter of genre.

What aspect of your music career would you like to explore in a deeper manner?

I would like to continue to learn the ins and outs of the music business. You can never learn too much.

Give us an idea of your forthcoming shows at Captain's Bar.

This show is targeted to a more relaxed audience. There will also be some dancing like always, but I'll be more focused on trying to impress the crowd with the soulfulness of true R&B.

(Jay-R performs on Nov. 9 and 17 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati, with guests Pops Fernandez and Kuh Ledesma.)

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning Nov. 2

American Gangster, Universal

TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	☆	American Gangster	$ 46.3 mln	1
2	☆	Bee Movie	$ 39.1 mln	1
3	1	Saw IV	$ 11.0 mln	2
4	2	Dan In Real Life	$ 8.1 mln	2
5	3	30 Days of Night	$ 4.0 mln	3
6	4	The Game Plan	$ 3.9 mln	6
7	☆	Martian Child	$ 3.7 mln	1
8	6	Michael Clayton	$ 2.9 mln	5
9	5	Why Did I Get Married?	$ 2.7 mln	4
10	7	Gone Baby Gone	$ 2.4 mln	3

TW This week
LW Last week
☆ New release
WR Weeks in release

Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday
REUTERS

SulitiPid combos
P29 combo 1 1 Donut + Coffee Regular
P39 combo 3 2 Cups of Coffee
P29 combo 2 Munchkins + 1 Coca-Cola
P46 combo 4 2 Choco Wackos + 1 Coca-Cola
DUNKIN' DONUTS Pasalubong ng Bayan
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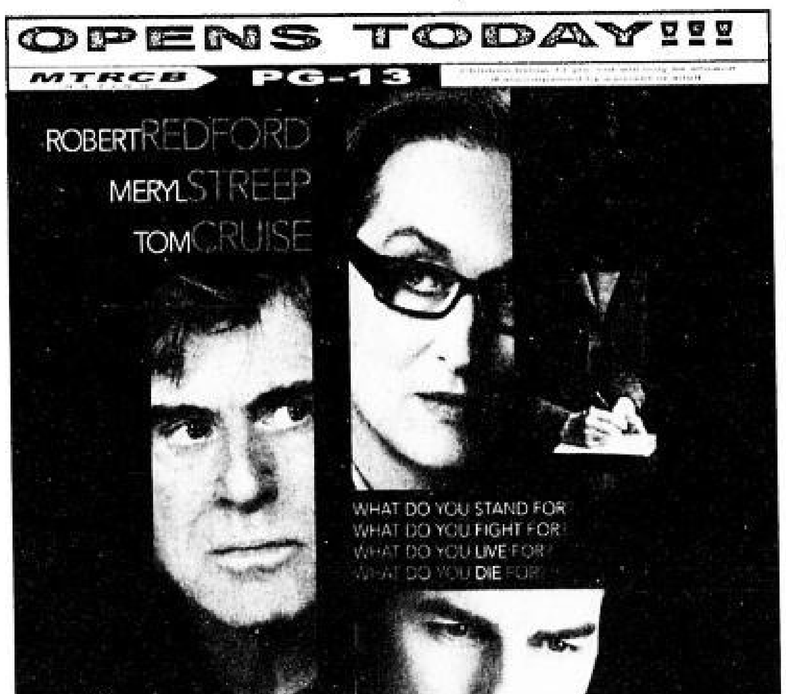

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MTRCB PG-13
ROBERT REDFORD
MERYL STREEP
TOM CRUISE
WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR
WHAT DO YOU FIGHT FOR
WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR
WHAT DO YOU DIE FOR
LIONS FOR LAMBS

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
HORROR'S BIGGEST GROSSING OPENING WEEKEND: 2007

HALLOWEEN	30,591,759
DISTURBIA	22,224,982
1408	20,667,667
MESSENGERS	17,713,321
30 DAYS OF NIGHT	15, 591,902
28 WEEKS LATER	9,807,292

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DID YOU KNOW...

HONG KONG—BATMAN MIGHT CUT A superhuman figure as he fights off evil-doers to save the world, but Hong Kong's polluted harbor is, apparently, one death-defying stunt too far. Producers shooting the next Batman movie have been forced to cut one scene involving the caped crusader—played by Christian Bale—jumping out of a plane into the city's famed Victoria Harbour. According to the South China Morning Post, producers felt the poor water quality was just too dangerous for the action hero when shooting for part of the film takes place here in the coming week.

AFP

OPENING TODAY

Ataul for Rent

Stars Jaclyn Jose, Joel Torre, Irma Adlawan, Coco Martin, Ronnie Lazaro

Directed by Neal "Buboy" Tan

Embalmer Guido (Torre) profits from renting out coffins to his poor neighbors in the slums. Graded A by the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB), this indie drama was also chosen to compete at the Cairo and Kerala international film festivals. The CEB, which is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, hails it as "bleak, black and beautiful ... the story was told succinctly ... [and boasts] tour-de-force performances."

Lions for Lambs

Stars Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise, Peter Berg

Directed by Robert Redford

Arguments for and against the US war in the Middle East are played out in a university, a Senator's office and the mountains of Afghanistan. Ray Bennett of The Hollywood Reporter asserts that this "honest ... well-made movie offers no answers but raises many important questions." Derek Elley of Variety calls it "talky ... liberal but patriotic." Dave Calhoun of Time Out London thinks the film's politics is "basic beyond belief."

We Own the Night

Stars Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall, Eva Mendes

Directed by James Gray

A club manager (Phoenix) and a cop (Wahlberg) are also brothers who find themselves on opposite sides of the law. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone recalls that this crime drama was "booed at the Cannes ... [but it's] defiantly, refreshingly unhip." A.O. Scott of New York Times de-

OPENING/ F4

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a film by Lamberto Bava
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	November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
	November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
	November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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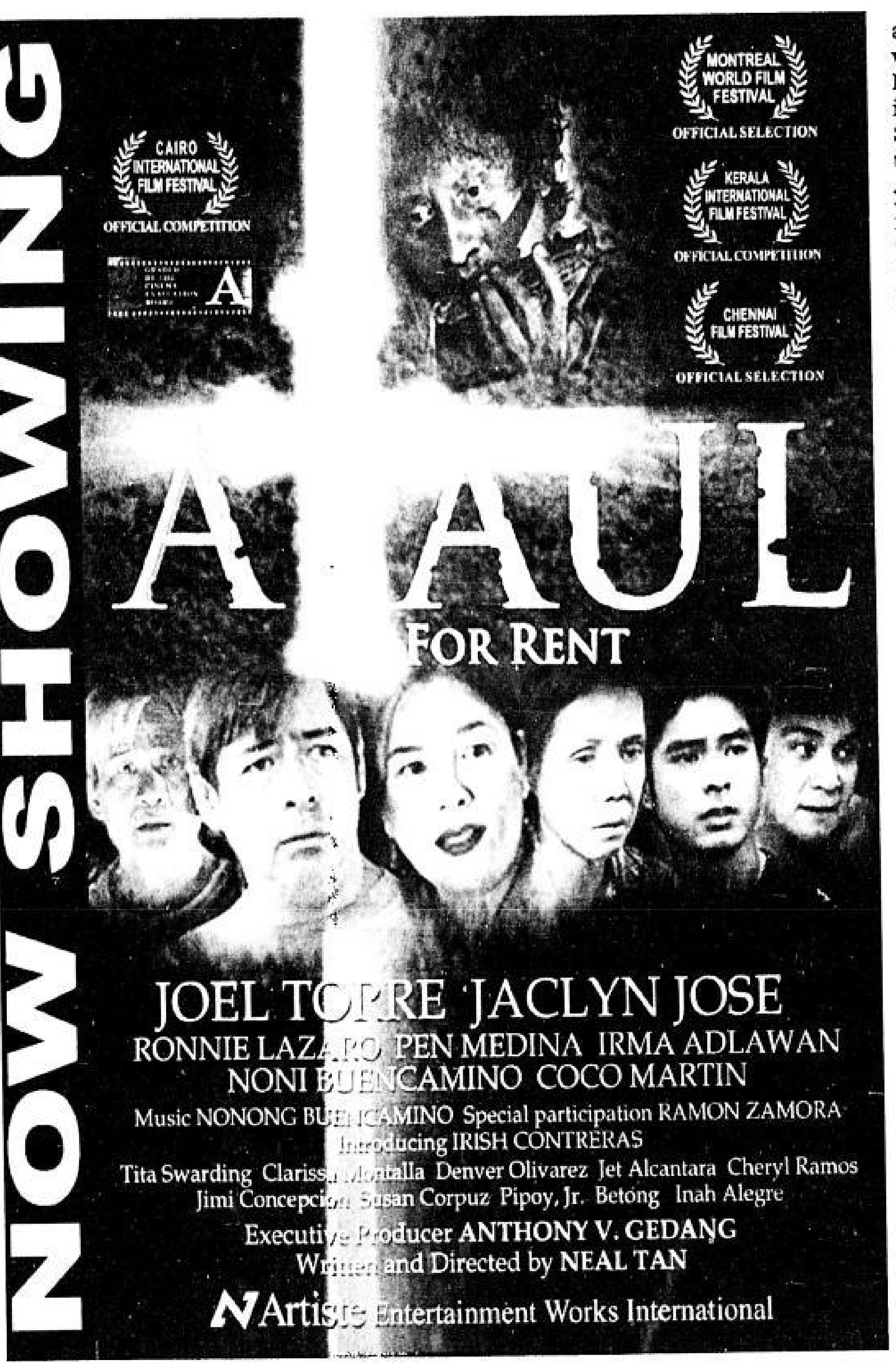

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CHENNAI FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION
ATAUL
FOR RENT
JOEL TORRE JACLYN JOSE
RONNIE LAZARO PEN MEDINA IRMA ADLAWAN
NONI BUENCAMINO COCO MARTIN
Music NONONG BUENCAMINO Special participation RAMON ZAMORA
Introducing IRISH CONTRERAS
Tita Swarding Clarissa Montalla Denver Olivarez Jet Alcantara Cheryl Ramos
Jimi Concepcion Susan Corpuz Pipoy, Jr. Betong Inah Alegre
Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
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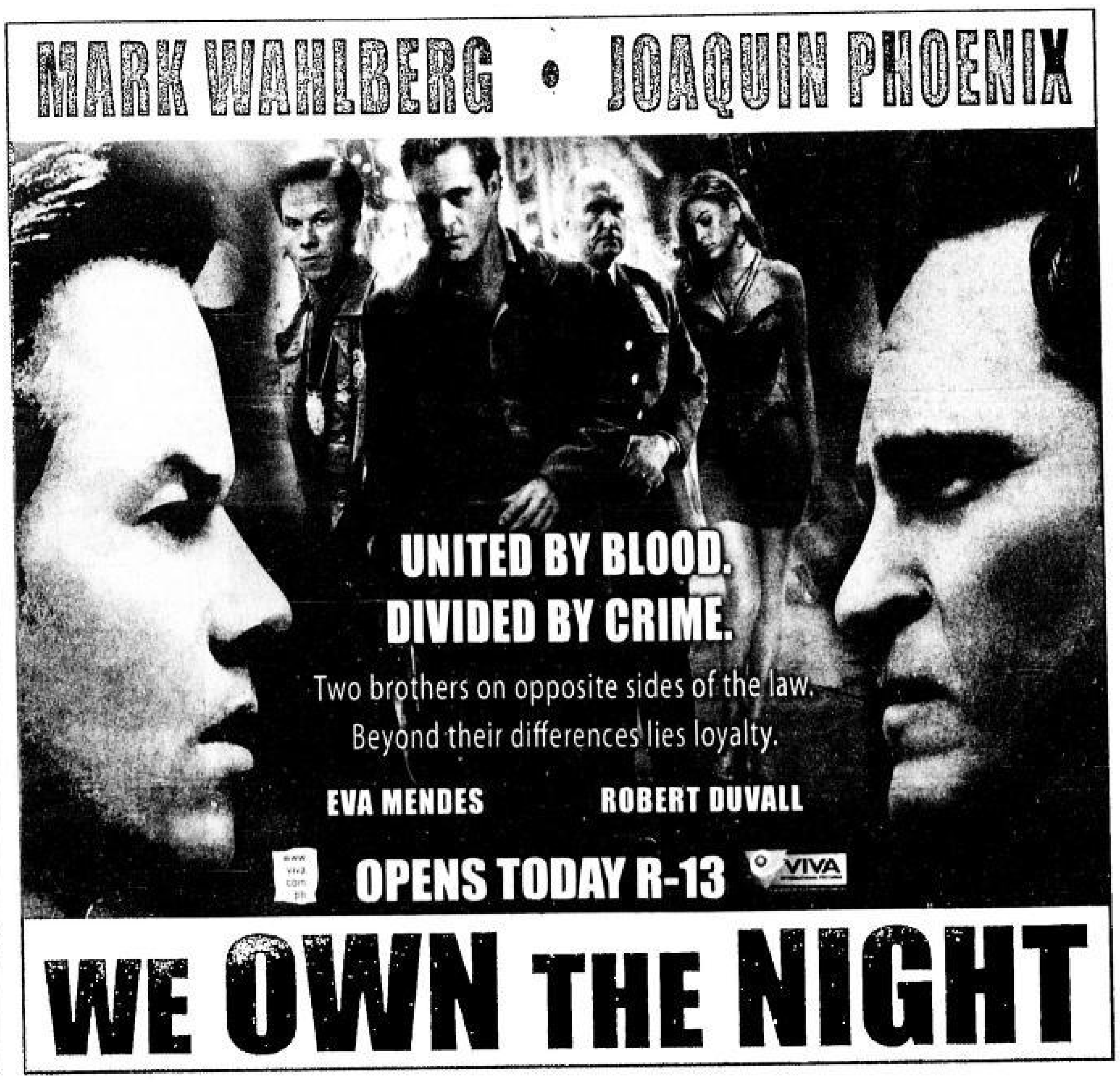
JENNIFER LOPEZ
MARC ANTHONY
EL CANTANTE
THEIR MUSIC CHANGED THE WORLD.



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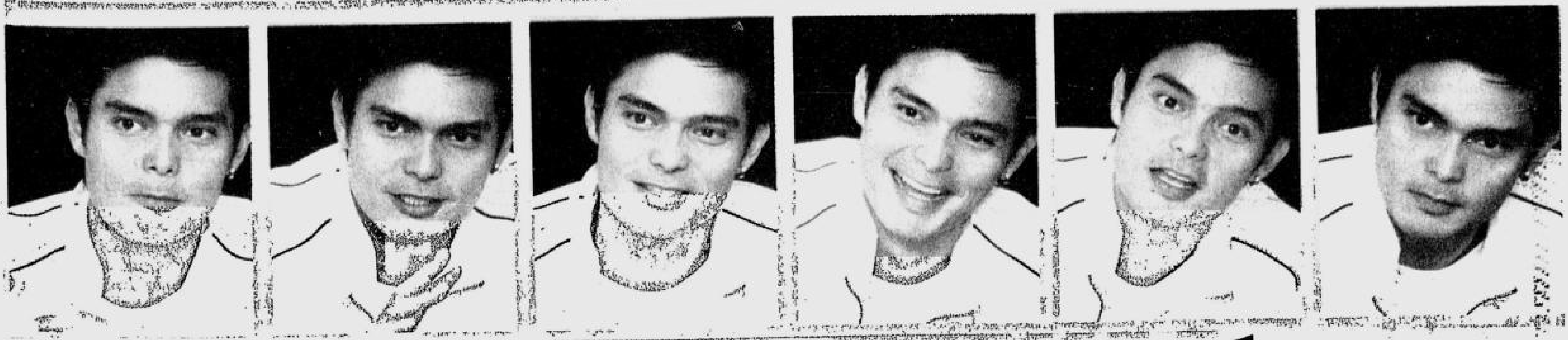


Nice turned naughty

TAKE FIVE

Adoring fans of every age and gender look at Dingdong Dantes differently now

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and the Inquirer Entertainment Staff
Photos by Romy Homillada

NOW THAT THE GMA 7 SOAP OPERA "Marimar" is hitting the high 40s in the ratings charts (47.9 percent, according to Kapuso drumbeaters), lead actor Dingdong Dantes is feeling the heat.

When he dropped by the INQUIRER for this informal chat, he was greeted by adoring fans of all ages, sizes ... and genders.

When the decidedly male guard stopped him at the lobby, it was not for security reasons. It was for a photo-op.

When Dingdong paid the INQUIRER a second visit days later for a read-along session with special children, kids and their parents also asked—actually, demanded—snapshots.

Dingdong, who plays heartthrob Sergio Santibañez on the series, insists that he has yet to get used to all this feverish attention from fans.

"When people tell me I'm good-looking, I take it as a joke," he notes. "I really can't take it seriously. All I can do is smile quietly."

But did the adulation ever reach scary proportions?

"Just uncomfortable," he admits. "But I try to be appreciative and, if possible, I also return the compliment."

Good boy.

But did he ever receive indecent proposals?

"Not yet," he jests. "I'm pleading to those who are interested ..."

Naughty boy.

Did you watch the original "Marimar"?

No. But since the TV was usually on at dinnertime, I kept hearing the theme song. Until now, it still plays in my mind. It's very catchy.

Did you get a pay hike because of Sergio?

Not really. It's in my contract that, after a certain period, there's usually an increase.

Do you get compared to the original Sergio (Eduardo Capetillo)?

Yah. People always ask me why I don't have chest hair. (Laughs.) I tell them: *Iba ang Pinoy*!

At first, you seemed too clean-cut for Sergio.

I had to make a few adjustments. Like I grew a mustache. I also changed the way I dress. In terms of mannerisms, I was allowed to play around a bit. Physically, I had to prepare, though.

You lost weight for the role? How many pounds?

Hmm ... about 23 pounds.

I did it through proper diet. Eating the right food. For the past five years, I've been trying different diets and exercises. Obviously, these didn't work. For me, eating fish and vegetables worked. I also limit my food intake. Instead of five meals a day, I'm down to three.

It was important to be fit so that I'd be comfortable wearing anything.

Or wearing nothing?

Or close to nothing.

What was your girlfriend Karylle's reaction when she saw your beefcake photos?

Actually, she was the one who approved the shots. She's my gauge. I know she'd tell me if it were too much or just right. I trust her every word.

Does Karylle get affected that the network is packaging you and Marian Rivera as a love team?

No. We agreed that we need to concentrate on our individual careers now. Karylle is doing well in her music and indie movie careers. She's busy with a lot of projects. Same goes with me.

Karylle auditioned for "Marimar." Do you think it's best that she didn't get the role?

Yah. I believe she'll be better off in a different field.

You don't want her to go sexy?

Ay, no! I have nothing to do with those decisions (laughs).

She got good reviews for her Cinemalaya film "Ligaw Liham."

Oo nga po!

How did you help her in doing that film?

She's one of its producers. So I did a cameo for her. Actually, it's just my voice. I provided the voice of her husband [who's supposed to be abroad] in the letter-reading scenes. I also helped when it was shown at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. I sponsored the printing of the premiere night tickets. You know, small stuff like that.

You should've seen your reaction when we mentioned Karylle's name. You lit up!

Really? It's instinct.

You also put up a business together, right?

It's called Centerstage KTV. She's the spokesperson of that project.

Is it easy to turn off Sergio after work?

Well, since we tape four days a week, it can be difficult. I can't help imbibing Sergio. That's why you really need space, resting time. It's not easy.

When you're with Karylle, do you talk about "Marimar"?

We don't talk about it.

Is that the deal?

No.

She doesn't want to talk about it?

Not really. Actually, she was a fan of the original "Marimar," with Thalia.

DINGDONG Dantes plays heartthrob Sergio Santibañez in the TV soap "Marimar."

When you say you don't talk about it, is it because you consciously avoid it or is it because it just doesn't crop up?

I think there are more important things to discuss.

Karylle's so lucky!

I'm also lucky to have her. She supports me completely.

How has your being Sergio affected your relationship?

The main thing is the lack of time. I wouldn't consider it a problem, but it's an inconvenient thing. The good thing is that we were able to save up on a lot of bonding time before we became busy with work.

We're prepared for this phase in our lives. We've come to accept that there will come a time when we have to concentrate on our work.

You said that you're also lucky to have Karylle. In what way?

She's very understanding. We're doing great. I have no complaints.

How did you meet?

In school. Ateneo. I met her through a friend.

Who fell in love first?

I don't know. I think we fell in love at the same time. Interesting question. I should ask her that.

Did you court her? Some guys can't tell if a girl is interested in them?

That's true. Especially me. I'm kinda clueless in that area.

When it came to our courtship, it helped that we were working together then. That was how we got to know each other. Although we went out [on dates], it wasn't like a formal courtship. Still, when the time came for me to say what I had to say, it was easy.

Why is Karylle's mom Zsazsa Padilla rooting for you? How did you win her?

The key was that I didn't really try too hard. I didn't exert extra effort.

I was just being myself all throughout.

What makes you click with Karylle?

We're really compatible. We complement one another. There are things that I don't do that she does well and there things that I do well that she doesn't do. Plus, she brings out the best it me.

You were in Bangkok for a commercial shoot. When you're abroad, what are the things you do when free from work?

I love trying out street food. That's one of the first things I look for when I'm out of the country.

You don't get to do that here?

Only near my house. I know the people there e. The vendors are used to me so I can buy *lumpia* and fish balls from them.

What else did you do in Bangkok?

I ate in Indian restaurants. I love Indian and Thai food. I also went shopping. I looked for cheap stuff in this big mall. It's like their Greenhills. Six floors of *tiangges*.

Were there Filipinos there?

I only saw five Pinoys. They asked me: *"O ano'ng ginagawa mo dito?"* [What are you doing here?] One Filipina helped me look for a Thai silk blouse that my aunt had asked me to buy.

You like shopping for women?

It's because I know what looks good on them. I like buying dresses for my girlfriend.

There was an event where Karylle was wearing something that you had bought.

That happens often.

She likes it?

Yah, she likes it. Actually, when I proposed to her, she was wearing a dress that I had bought for her.

What's her favorite gift from you?

The piano. A Yamaha piano.

What's your favorite gift from her?

She likes doing "album presentations" on her computer. She puts together photos and scores [the presentation] with music. That's one of the more memorable gifts.

You got positive reviews for directing an episode of the movie "Angels." Do you have plans of directing again soon?

Not yet. I want to focus on acting now. I know *naman* that I won't lose my talent as a director. That it can possibly improve as I grow older because of what I gain, in terms of life experiences. I plan to pursue filmmaking in three to four years.

Since you're also a director, do you give suggestions on the set of "Marimar"?

No. I'd rather give full control to the director. It's weird ... it's like I have automatic shut-off when I get to the set. I guess it's because I'd want the same thing from my actors if I'm the director.

How do fans react when they see you now?

As of now, they're mad at me. But they shouldn't be because Sergio shouldn't be blamed for Marimar's misfortunes. Fans got upset because I wasn't there for her.

Is it true that people find you sexier and more attractive now than before?

Well, it's probably because I also had a major shift in my outlook in life. I'm more relaxed and confident now. I'm able to handle things better. I guess it's because I have nothing to hide. I'm not pretending to be someone else.

Speaking of which, how did you and Karylle handle those rumors that you had a child with (former screen partner) Antoinette Taus?

That was easy. We talked about it from the start. It also helps that Karylle is friends with Antoinette so she knows the real score.

DINGDONG entertains special children during a read-along session at the INQUIRER.

Jeremy Marquez takes after dad Joey

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

NEW YORK—JOHNNY DEPP SAYS his 8-year-old daughter is now healthy and well following her hospitalization earlier this year.

"Now every single millisecond is a mini-celebration," the 44-year-old actor tells Entertainment Weekly in its Nov. 9 issue. "Every time we get to breathe in and exhale is a huge victory. She pulled through beautifully, perfectly, with no lasting anything."

Lily-Rose, the daughter of Depp and French singer Vanessa Paradis, was admitted to a British hospital to receive treatment for an undisclosed ailment about three weeks after Depp started work on "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," Tim Burton's adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical about a murderous barber.

"To say it was the darkest moment, that's nothing," Depp tells the magazine. "It doesn't come close to describing it. Words are so small." *AP*

Expectant mother

SYDNEY—Oscar-winning Australian actress Cate Blanchett has confirmed she is pregnant with her third child.

Speaking to reporters at a red-carpet event in Sydney to promote her new movie "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," 38-year-old Blanchett said she was expecting a baby in April.

Blanchett and her playwright husband Andrew Upton begin a three-year stint in January heading the Sydney Theatre Company where she began her career 13 years ago. They already have two sons. *Reuters*

It's a girl

LOS ANGELES—It's a girl for Milla Jovovich and her fiance Paul Anderson, the producer of her "Resident Evil" film franchise.

Jovovich gave birth to Ever Gabo Anderson on Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Jovovich's publicist Laura Bass said Sunday.

Anderson and Jovovich met when he directed her in the 2002 action horror flick "Resident Evil." She also starred in the film's two sequels, which Anderson wrote and produced.

Jovovich, 31, was previously married to actor Shawn Andrews and French filmmaker Luc Besson, who directed her in "The Fifth Element." *AP*

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Show biz & politics

Jeremy Marquez on his qualifications as chair of Barangay BF Homes in Parañaque City:

"Thirteen years old *pa lang ako, nangangampanya na kami para sa tatay ko.* Half *ng buhay ko talaga nandito (sa pulitika). Tapos nag-aral pa ako ng* political science...*Lumaki ako sa pundasyon ng pamilyang tumutulong.* Ever since, *bago pa ako pumasok ng* show biz, *nandito na ako... Ito yung tinuro sa akin ng magulang ko. Ito yung pinag-aralan ko. Ito yung mahal ko."(So, hindi niya* love *ang* show biz?)

No truth to rumors

Rufa Mae Quinto on reports she was badmouthing Marian Rivera, a co-star in the upcoming film, "Desperadas."

"First time *ko pong makatrabaho si* Marian. *Hindi ko po alam kung ano ang pagkatao niya.* So, *bakit ko siya sisiraan?*...In fairness, *wala akong mareklamo. Ang ina-ano ko lang, saan nanggagaling yun? At ('pag nalaman) ko kung saan nanggagaling yun, saka ako mag-re-*react *ng bonggang-bongga.* In the meantime, *okey po kami."*

Working quietly

Pauleen Luna on the construction of six townhouses which was seen as a business venture with her boyfriend, Navotas Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian:

"Akin lang po ito at saka po dun sa partner *ko. Si* Mayor (Gatchalian) has nothing to do with it. He was actually shocked when I told him. *Kasi* I worked quietly *eh.* I'm building, *di ba,* six houses so by next year okay *na yon. Yun ang alam niya.* But then again, *akin lang din yun so pinaghirapan ko."*

Richard Gutierrez on purported romantic links with KC Concepcion:

"Magkaibigan kami ni KC *dati na. Matagal na kaming magkakilala. At saka alam naman nating lahat na may iniibig na siya ngayon di ba? So huwag na natin bigyan ng malisya ang pagiging magkaibigan namin."*

JEREMY Marquez

BIANCA King

Grab it while it's hot

Ara Mina on speculations she was moving to ABS-CBN after guesting in several Kapamilya shows recently:

"Nasa 'Bubble Gang' *pa ako.* There's nothing wrong with that *kasi* I'm not exclusive *ng* GMA *at alam naman ng* GMA *ang mga* guestings *ko sa kabila. Ayokong magsalita ng tapos. Hindi natin alam kung ano'ng pwedeng mangyari. Siyempre kung saan tayo* may work, *di ba, bakit 'di natin i-ga-*grab *yung* work?" *('Yan ang wa-is!)*

RHIAN Ramos

Like father, like son?

Dennis Trillo, asked if he had seen his baby son, Calex Andrea, with ex-girlfriend Carlene Aguilar since the former beauty queen arrived in Manila.

"Oo nakita ko na siya. Sobrang kamukha ko. Nakikita ko yung sarili ko sa kanya nung baby pa ako kasi kamukha ko talaga. Masaya (ang feeling *ko)."(Dapat lang.)*

On raging hormones

Jigo Garcia's advice to Jennica Garcia, his daughter with Jean Garcia, and her love team partner Mart Escudero, who are both lead young stars in the movie "Hide and Seek":

"Huwag na muna kayong masyadong mag-seryoso. Parehong maganda ang career *niyo. Bihira sa isang artista o sa isang tao ang mga nararating niyo ngayon."*

How to get cozy

Rhian Ramos on working with Mark Herras for the first time in the upcoming *sineserye* "My Only Love":

"Honestly, *nung una, kinakabahan pa ako. Matagal na kami ni* Mark *magkakilala. Hindi ko pa kasi siya nakakatrabaho. Sobrang alalay siya. Parang kahit* awkward, *kasi ganito kalapit ang mga mukha namin, binibiro niya talaga ako. Kahit walang eksena, binibiro niya ako.* So *parang* more and more *nagiging komportable ako."*

No regrets

Bianca King on talk she regretted appearing on the cover of a men's magazine:

*"Hindi po ako nagsisisi na ginawa ko yon. Natural naman po na kapag nagpa-*sexy *ka sa* cover *ng isang* magazine, *iisipin din ng mga tao, yun din yung gustong* path *na gagawin ko sa* show biz. *Ako naman po, di ko talaga kaya magpa-sexy sa mga* roles *sa* movies *or sa* TV shows." *(E pano kung maganda script at magaling ang direktor?)*

Casino (show) queen

Katya Santos on being a 'casino queen':

Ang katotohanan po, kaya sinabing casino queen or *nalululong ako sa* casino, it's because *halos* every month, maybe at least twice a week, *nag-sho-*show *po ako sa* casino, *sa* entertainment area.*Hindi po ako marunong magsugal."*

'Inggit factor'

Ai-Ai on her failed relationship with Miguel Vera and dreams of marriage:

"Kung tiniis ko lahat ng nararamdaman ko, siguro kami pa rin at yung mga anak ko may tatay na rin kung di ako bumitaw... Pag nakakita ako ng kinakasal, minsan may inggit factor *pa rin ako na siguro pag nakasuot na ako ng* gown, *maganda rin ako. Siguro marami din akong bisita. Yung ganoon. Pero* dream *lang yun minsan."*

Ai Ai on loving younger men:

"Pwede akong ma-in love *sa bata kasi yun ngang last ko na dapat papakasalan ko,* 22 years old lang." *(Sobrang bata naman ata nun.)*

All in the family

Jolo Revilla on the plans of half-brother Luigi to enter show biz:

"Pwede, gwapo naman eh. Parehas kami ng kilay, mata. Oo naman, siyempre." (Gwapo lang, artista na?)

Bryan Revilla on Luigi:

"He's really my brother. I don't consider him as a half-brother or anything. He's really my brother and I look out for him the way I also look out for my younger siblings."

JENNICA Garcia and Mart Escudero

REVIEW

Too long, but contains moments of great beauty and suspense

NEW YORK—OVERWROUGHT and overlong, Ang Lee's "Lust, Caution" nevertheless has some moments of exquisite beauty and a potentially star-making performance from newcomer Tang Wei.

It'll be a tough sell, and not just for the NC-17 rating the film famously received for graphic sex scenes that are sometimes brutal, sometimes borrowed from Cirque du Soleil.

Sluggish buildup

Based on a short story by Chinese writer Eileen Chang and set in Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War II, "Lust, Caution" follows the torrid love affair between top Japanese collaborator Mr. Yee (Tony Leung) and Wong Chia Chi (Tang), a young spy who's posing as an affluent married woman to lure him into an assassination plot.

Trouble is, she ends up falling for him, and he for her, which Lee captures in tragic noir fashion. The buildup takes awhile, though.

It helps to have read the original story to keep all the players straight—the wealthy wives, the idealistic young members of the Chinese resistance.

Wong, pretending to be the stylish Mrs. Mak, sits around playing mahjong with Mrs. Yee (Joan Chen) and her equally status-conscious friends, still clinging to the remnants of their more opulent, prewar life. She's much younger than the others in the group but has insinuated herself among them for shopping trips and long lunches, all with the ultimate goal of getting close to Yee himself.

As she's about to meet him at a cafe for a tryst at the film's start, Wong recalls how she got involved in this scheme four years ago. It was 1938 and she was a college student in Hong Kong. A patriotic campus drama group, led by the passionate Kuang Yu Min (American-born Asian pop star Wang Leehom), recruits her to perform in their first stage production.

Playing the part

This acting skill she never knew she had prepares her for the part of mistress she will later play when the group sets its ambitious sights on the powerful, traitorous Yee.

Tang's work here is reminiscent of Naomi Watts' startling performance in "Mulholland Dr.," in that it requires her to be entirely separate, distinct people depending on the situation, a feat she pulls off flawlessly. She has a haunting beauty, appears in nearly every scene and completely holds her own opposite the far more seasoned Leung.

And Leung, the Asian film icon, functions here as a much darker figure than we've ever seen from him in "Hero," "Infernal Affairs" and "In the Mood for Love."

Sex scenes

Ah yes, the sex—the thing that has everyone in a tizzy. Lee had to cut a half-hour from the film for it to be shown in Chinese theaters, but we see it all here. The scenes can be raw, intense, disturbing, acrobatic but surprisingly, they ultimately turn romantic. Wong's acting skills eventually begin to fail her as she finds herself surrendering, body and soul, to this man she never ordinarily would have been attracted to but now, unfortunately, loves.

The climactic conclusion also takes awhile to reach, and by then you will have long been shifting in your seat. But any film from Lee simply cannot be disregarded in simple terms; he once again proves he's a master of mood and complexity of character, whether or not you're up for the challenge. *AP*

OPENING TODAY

From page F2

scribes it as "a bloody, passionate melodrama [that's] self-consciously Shakespearean." Michael Phillips of Chicago Tribune dismisses it as "lugubrious."

Ghost Son

Stars Laura Harring, John Hannah, Pete Postlethwaite

Directed by Lamberto Bava

A woman (Harring) is horrified to discover that her infant son is possessed by the spirit of her dead husband (Hannah). Horrorexpress.com opines that it's "notable ... for its rich and colorful cinematography and the [director's] remarkable restraint." Bloody-disgusting.com sums it up as "deliberately paced [and] atmospheric." An IMDb.com reviewer points out: "In spite of the flaws in the screenplay, there are some creepy scenes."

"GHOST Son"

El Cantante

Stars Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez, John Ortiz, Manny Perez

Directed by Leon Ichaso

The tragic life of Puerto Rican salsa singer Hector Lavoe (Marc Anthony) is seen through the eyes of his equally self-destructive wife (Lopez). Jan Stuart of Newsday rants: "This is one noisy movie." Elizabeth Weitzman of New York Daily News states that "Anthony can't compete with the full-force gale of charisma that is Lopez." Joey Guerra of Houston Chronicle disagrees: "He lovingly recreates ... Lavoe's lavish repertoire ... a stellar soundtrack."

The Game Plan

Stars Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Madison Pettis, Kyra Sedgwick

Directed by Andy Fickman

A star quarterback (Johnson) is changed by his long-lost daughter (Pettis). John Monaghan of Detroit Free Press comments that this Disney comedy "tries to overcompensate with cute what it lacks in clever." Ty Burr of Boston Globe says "it's painless and [the lead star] isn't afraid to look completely ridiculous." Mike Mayo of Washington Post concurs: "Familiar formulas ... are brightened by a bit of wit and good performances."

Lust, Caution

Stars Tony Leung, Tang Wei, Joan Chen, Wang Leehom

Directed by Ang Lee

Based on a short story by Eileen Chang, this noirish drama tells of the illicit affair between a war-time collaborator (Leung) and the resistance fighter (Tang) tasked to kill him. Kenneth Turan of Los Angeles Times raves: It's "intense, psychologically intricate." Andrew Sarris of The New York Observer affirms: It's an "honestly observant political film." Steven Rea of Philadelphia Inquirer proffers: It "captures the bygone days of Shanghai."

"THE GAME Plan"

One film after another, from Adolf Alix Jr.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ADOLF ALIX JR. FIRST MADE A name for himself in film circles when, at age 18, he won First Prize in the Film Development Foundation's (now Council) nationwide screenwriting competition after taking our writing workshop.

Even better, his prize-winning script was made into a feature film by **Carlitos Siguion Reyna**. That's quite an endearment, because many prize-winning scripts remain unproduced for years, and some are never filmed at all.

Adolf then went on to write screenplays for directors like **Gil Portes**, and first ventured into film direction by way of "Donsol," which was one of the official entries and grantees of the Cinemalaya alternative film festival and competition.

How well did Adolf do as a director? We watched all of the Cinemalaya movies and concluded that he was the tilt's second best director, after "Tulad ng Dati's" **Mike Sandejas**.

Combination of traits

The next time we caught up with Adolf, he was writing and directing "Kadin" for the next Cinemalaya competition. We flew to Batanes to cover the movie's location shooting for the INQUIRER, and admired the way that the production triumphantly showcased Batanes' pristine and powerful beauty and grandeur.

While in Batanes, Adolf intimated to us that he was slated to return to the country's northernmost island group to shoot another movie, this time starring a Chinese actor. True enough, months later, we heard that the production had been given the green light, and is in fact currently being shot in Batanes, starring **Iza Calzado** and **Ken Zhu**.

Then, quite out of left field, we learned that another workshop participant, **Agnes de Guzman**, was writing a script about nurses—and it would be directed by Adolf! That project, "Nars," has been completed, and the film is slated to start its theater run soon.

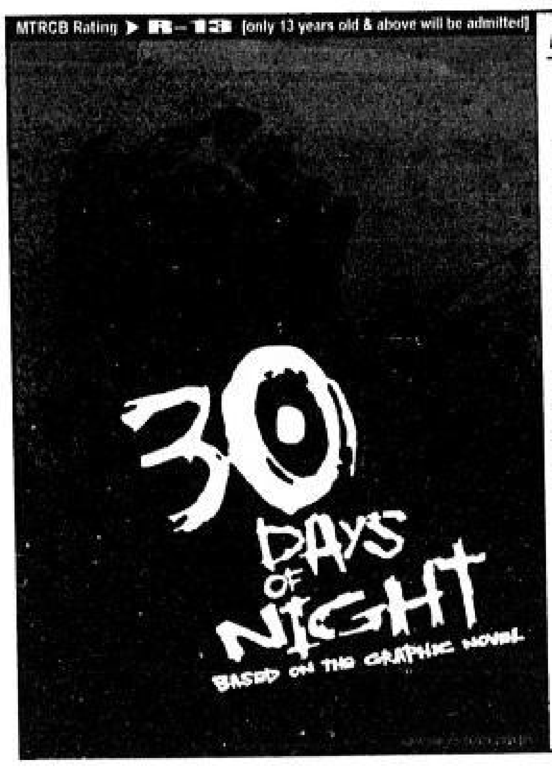
So, in the span of only a few years, Adolf has directed four feature films—quite a feat for a new filmmaker, especially during these difficult movie times.

How does he do it? From where we stand, we see that, aside from talent, what Adolf has going for him are organizational and motivational ability, a knack for spotting and initiating projects instead of waiting for them to come his way, an aptitude for using meager resources efficiently, and a feel for "natural" subject matter—meaning, stories about essential man and nature.

It's this combination of traits working in tandem that has enabled Adolf to emerge as one of the most productive and acclaimed new writer-directors on the local filmmaking scene.

We know that he's had his share of disappointments, but these haven't dissuaded him from constantly contributing to the growing body of work in the alternative mode that is slowly pulling the Filipino movie industry out of the rut that it's been languishing in for more than five years now.

Other new filmmakers would do well to be similarly determined, productive and venturesome—in their own way and style, of course.



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4 LUST, CAUTION
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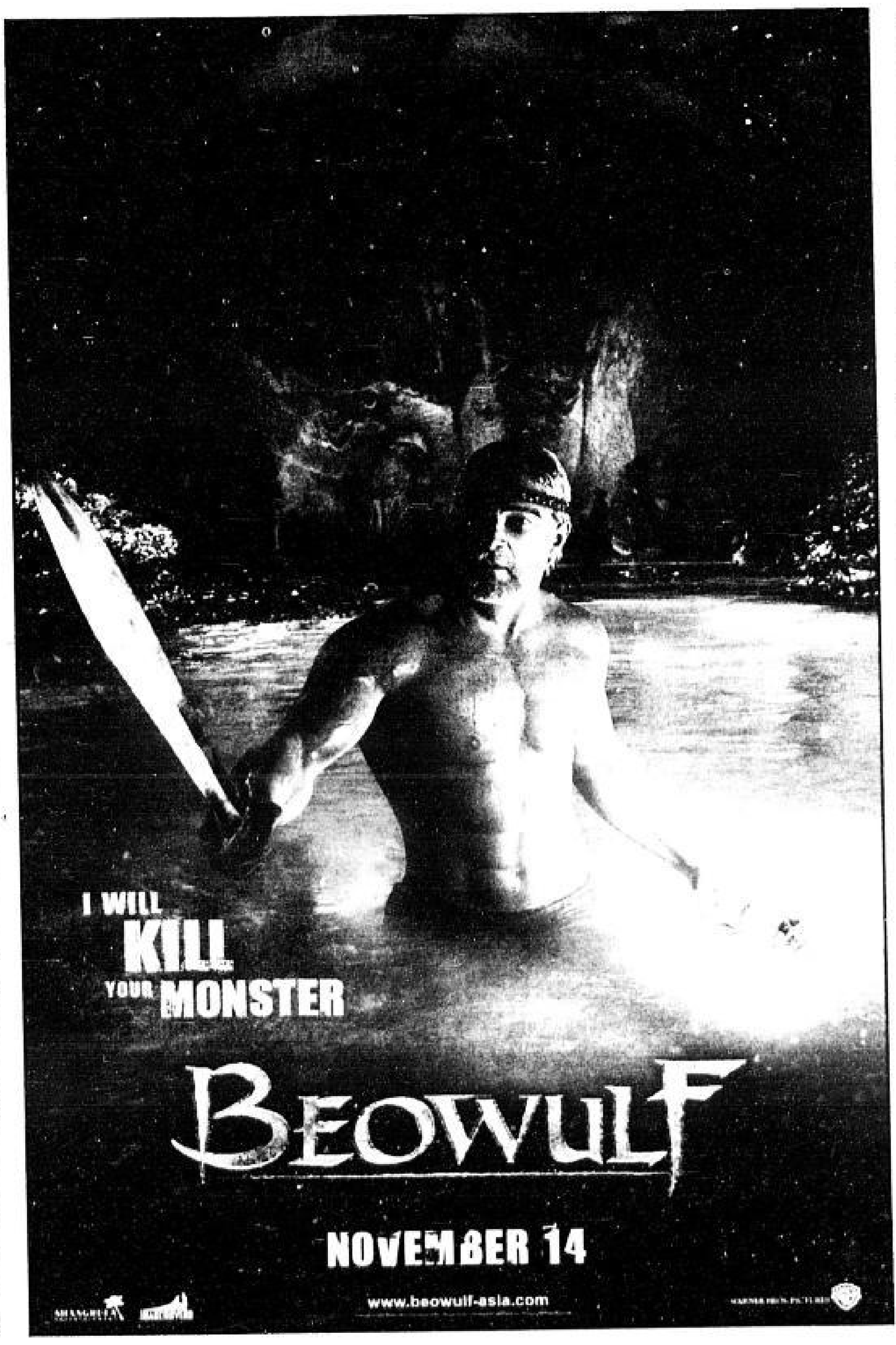

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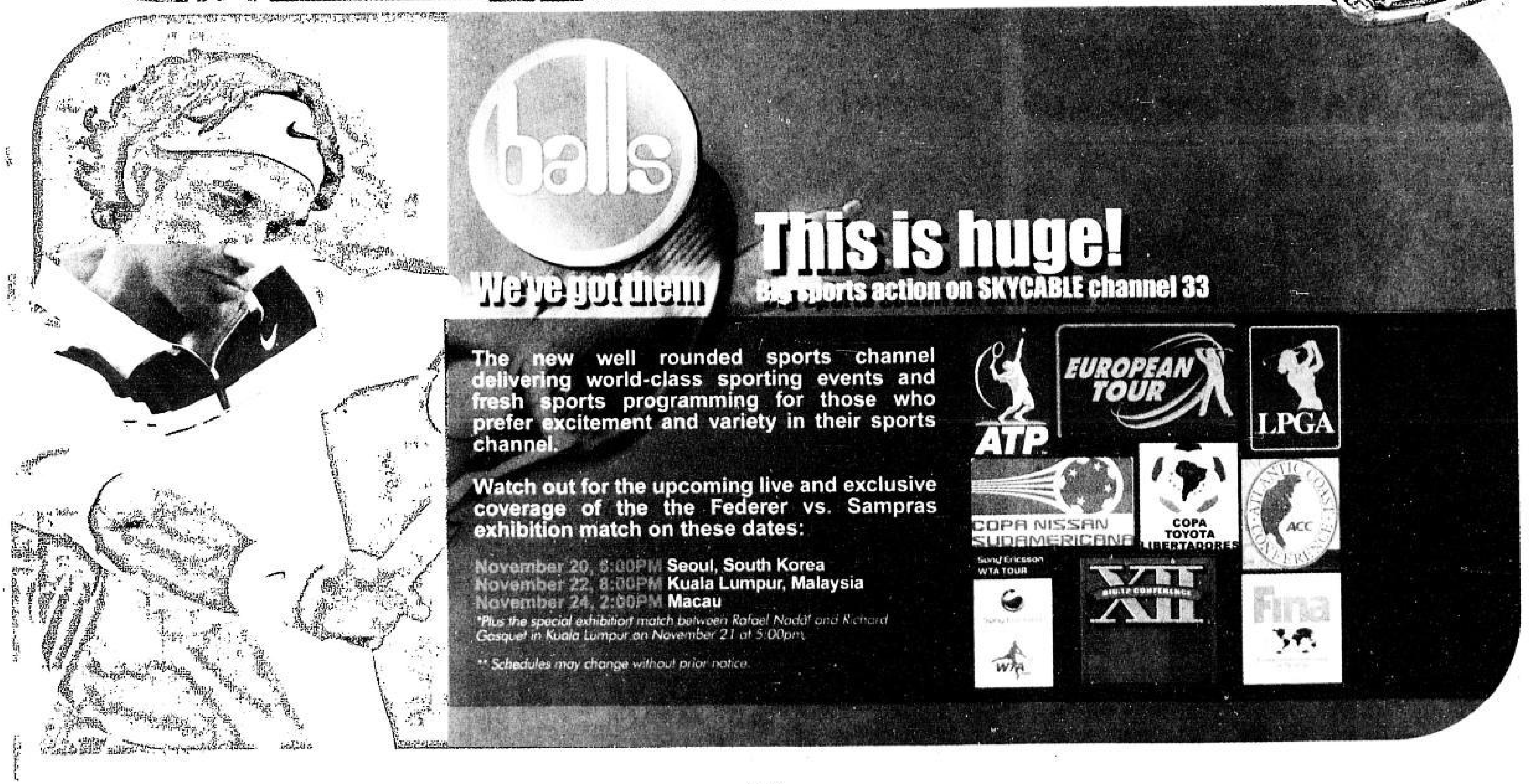
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Piolo Pascual, Sam Milby having a ball away from home

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

OUR *KABABAYANS* IN TORONTO WENT *taranta* over **Piolo Pascual** and **Sam Milby** during their sold-out concert there. From the looks of this pic taken at their show (courtesy of **Maricel Agtarep**), the two heartthrobs are having a ball being away from the maddening intrigues back here.

If only all those who insist that PJ and Sam were together at Sofitel also had a pic to substantiate their claims, then it would make their story credible instead of incredible!

Ecstatic Marvin

Marvin Agustin is ecstatic about his role in "Marimar" as **Marian Rivera's** new love interest (Rodolfo San Jinez).

I teased Marvs if he has plans of courting Marian. "I've learned my lesson. *Mahirap pagsabayin ang* work and personal life," he sighs. "It's beautiful and painful at the same time. If I'm going to court someone now, I'll make sure that she's God's answer to my happiness."

He has not had a chance to bond with Marian, but soon he will invite her to his newly opened cosmopolitan Japanese resto in Greenbelt 5, John & Yoko. Nice name 'huh? Wonder if there will be a Marvin and Marian coming up soon.

Annulment blues

I texted **Maricel Laxa** for an update on the case filed by **Liz Almoro** against **Willie Revillame** (which was dismissed by the DOJ). Maricel stood as a witness for Liz.

Her reply: "Liz's lawyer just got a copy of the resolution today (Monday). She will talk to Liz first before issuing an official statement."

It kinda reminds me of the question that ran through my head when I filed for my annulment: Are erring husbands more of a lawbreaker or a heartbreaker?

Real grownups, true issues

John Lloyd Cruz and **Bea Alonzo** team up for the fifth time in Star Cinema's "One More Chance," which opens Nov. 14. It's the anatomy of a breakup which anyone who has ever loved and lost can relate to. The film shows another dimension of Lloydie and Bea's love team as they portray real grownups with true issues to confront. The beauty of their tandem is that it clicks even without giving their fans false hopes that they will end up together in real life. What they have is a unique case of loving "happy Never after."

'Cerrudo Classico'

I had fun vodkanizing with **Bo Cerrudo** in Bacolod. He gave me a crash course on classical tunes. Now my iPod selection is a bit more cultured.

Catch Bo tonight, Nov. 14, 21, 28 and 29 in "Cerrudo Classico: Songs from Stage and Screen" at Teatrino Greenhills. He will be accompanied by an 18-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. For tickets, call 722-4532 loc. 116.

Bo and behold his exquisite music!

PIOLO and Sam perform in a sold-out concert in Toronto.

Good riddance

Guess who this celeb is who switched networks. The star told the big bosses, "The rival network is offering me this much. Can you top that?"

The higher-ups shot back, "It's not a question of whether we can match that. The question is do we want to?"

Ouch! What a way to say goodbye and good riddance!

New album

"Rekindle-The Rock Album" by **Champagne** (produced by **Al Albert**) contains 10 original songs. "Save Me" (second single released) has grabbed the attention of people in the live circuit. The song has an international vibe to it.

Champagne wrote it when she was going through a tumultuous relationship. But now she's all set to rekindle love for herself and for music, just as the title of her album suggests.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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KERALA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL COMPETITION
CHENNAI FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION
ATAUL
FOR RENT
JOEL TORRE JACLYN JOSE
RONNIE LAZARO PEN MEDINA IRMA ADLAWAN
NONI BUENCAMINO COCO MARTIN
Music NONONG BUENCAMINO Special participation RAMON ZAMORA
Introducing IRISH CONTRERAS
Tita Swarding Clarissa Mondalla Denver Olivarez Jet Alcantara Cheryl Ramos
Jimi Concepcion Susan Corpuz Pipoy, Jr. Betong Inah Alegre
Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
Artistas Entertainment Works International

Katie Holmes runs in NYC Marathon

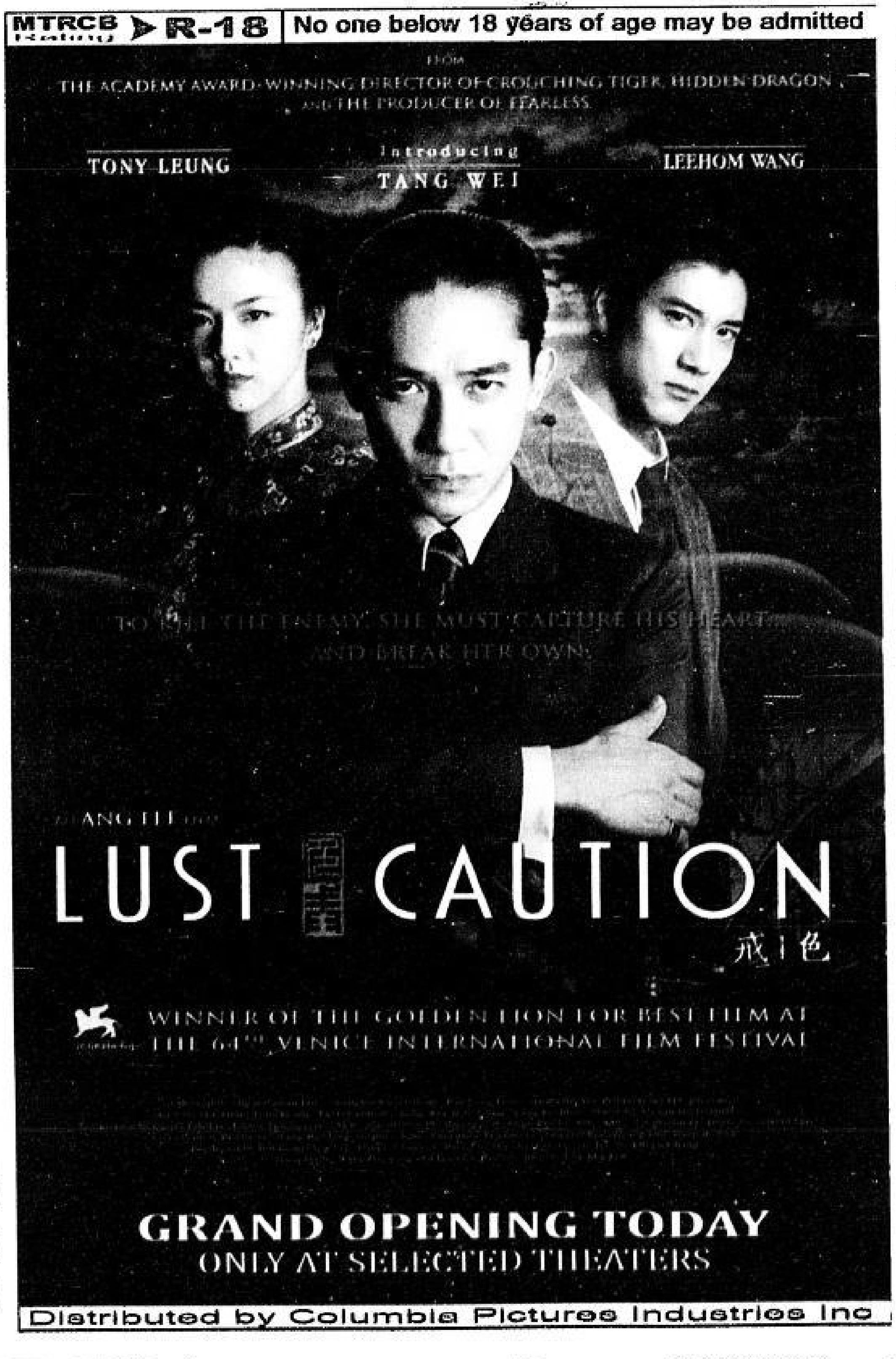
NEW YORK—KATIE Holmes was among the tens of thousands of runners in Sunday's New York City Marathon, finishing the race in 5 hours, 29 minutes and 58 seconds.

Husband Tom Cruise and their daughter Suri were at the finish line to congratulate the actress, according to event officials.

Holmes had registered under an alias so she wouldn't draw too much attention to herself, event officials said, but her time was listed in the official results under her real name.

The 26.2-mile (42.2-kilometer) course travels through all five boroughs of the city, starting on Staten Island and finishing in Manhattan's Central Park. This year, 39,085 runners started the race.

Holmes has said she has always liked to run, and took it up to help lose baby weight after giving birth to her daughter, who is now a year old. *AP*



MTRCB Rating R-18 No one below 18 years of age may be admitted
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
TONY LEUNG
Introducing TANG WEI
LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
AN ANG LEE FILM
LUST CAUTION
戒 色
WINNER OF THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AT THE 64TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
GRAND OPENING TODAY
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS
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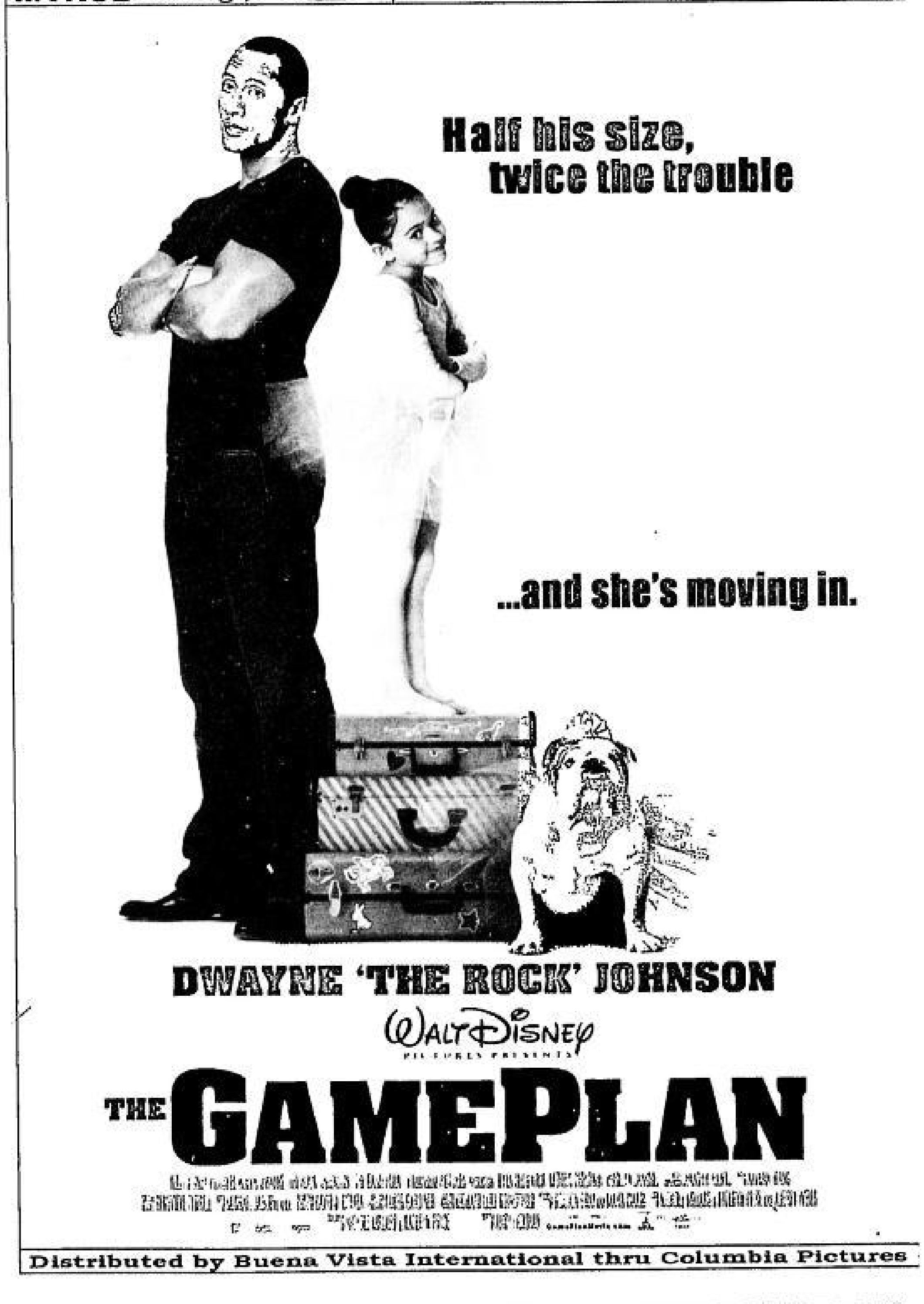
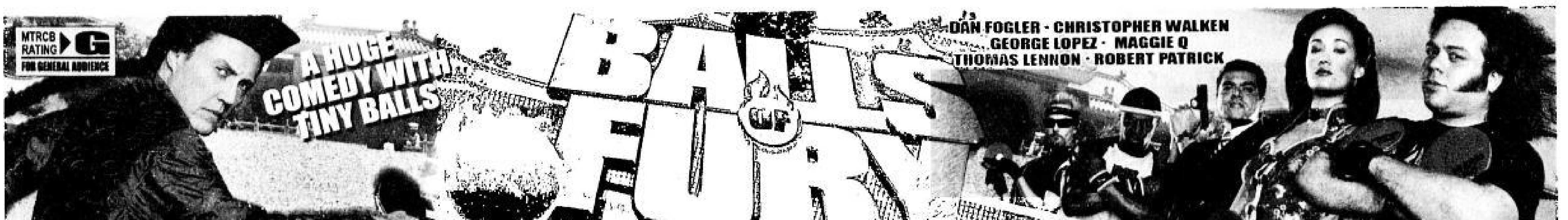


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating G All Ages Admitted
Half his size, twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.
DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE GAMEPLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
A HUGE COMEDY WITH TINY BALLS
BALLS OF FURY
DAN FOGLER · CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
GEORGE LOPEZ · MAGGIE Q
THOMAS LENNON · ROBERT PATRICK
NOW SHOWING
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SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
ROGUE

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www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX [illegible] 632-1116

1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX
2 EL CANTANTE
3 WE OWN the NIGHT
4 GHOST SON
5 GAME PLAN
6 ATAUL for RENT
7 LUST CAUTION
8 indieSine
9 HIDE and SEEK
10 30 DAYS of NIGHT
BALLS of FURY

UNCUT VERSION
LUST CAUTION

Special SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
galleria ermita
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MTRCB Rating: R-18

LUST CAUTION

ERMITA

1 GAME PLAN
2 GHOST SON
3 WE OWN the NIGHT
4 LIONS for LAMBS
5 ATAUL for RENT
30 DAYS of NIGHT
6 EL CANTANTE
7 LUST CAUTION

METRO EAST

Ticket Price P100 / P11[illegible] 682-8193 / 682-8198

1 LUST CAUTION
2 GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 ATAUL for RENT
5 WE OWN the NIGHT
6 GHOST SON
7 HIDE and SEEK
8 BALLS of FURY
30 DAYS of NIGHT

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 GAME PLAN
3 HIDE nad SEEK
4 WE OWN the NIGHT

PIONEER

1 GAME PLAN
2 LIONS for LAMBS
3 WE OWN the NIGHT
4 EL CANTANTE

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 WE OWN the NIGHT
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HALLOWEEN

LIPA

Ticket Price (043) 757-3664 P90 (043) 312-5870

1 UNREST
2 HIDE nad SEEK
3 MR. WOODSTOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 WE OWN the NIGHT
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION

IMUS

Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 LUST CAUTION
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 UNREST

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 HIGHLANDER

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION
HALLOWEEN

STARMILLS

(045) [illegible]

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 HIGHLANDER
4 UNREST
5 THE SEEKER
6 HALLOWEEN

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

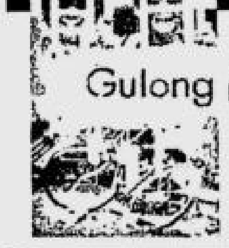
1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 HIGHLANDER
6 indieSine: GULONG

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 SEEKER: DARK is RISING
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 UNREST

A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ



GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD

MTRCB Rating: G

November 07 to 13

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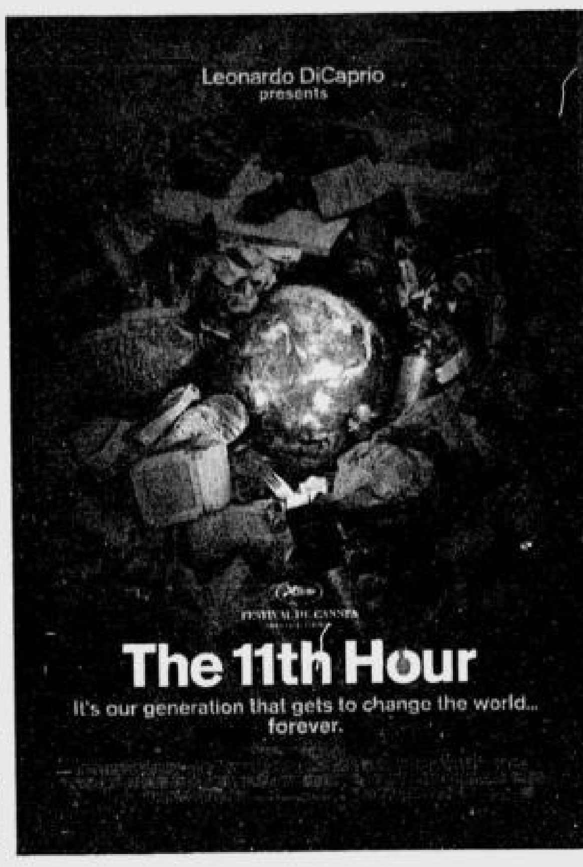
Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.

WB AND SM CINEMA join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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SPACE STATION Admission Price: P200
4:00 PM

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 EL CANTANTE
6 ATAUL FOR RENT

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HIDE & SEEK
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LIONS FOR LAMBS
CINEMA 2
THE GAME PLAN
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 EL CANTANTE
3 STARDUST
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
9 GHOST SON
10 ATAUL FOR RENT
11 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
12 BALLS OF FURY

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 GHOST SON
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 ATAUL FOR RENT
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 HIDE & SEEK
11 STARDUST
12 EL CANTANTE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 STARDUST
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 HALLOWEEN
11 EL CANTANTE
12 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 11TH HOUR
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/HALLOWEEN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 ATAUL FOR RENT
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY/HALLOWEEN
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ATAUL FOR RENT
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 LIONS & LAMBS
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 GHOST SON
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 **RESERVED**
7 EL CANTANTE
8 HALLOWEEN
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11 GHOST SON
12 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 UNREST

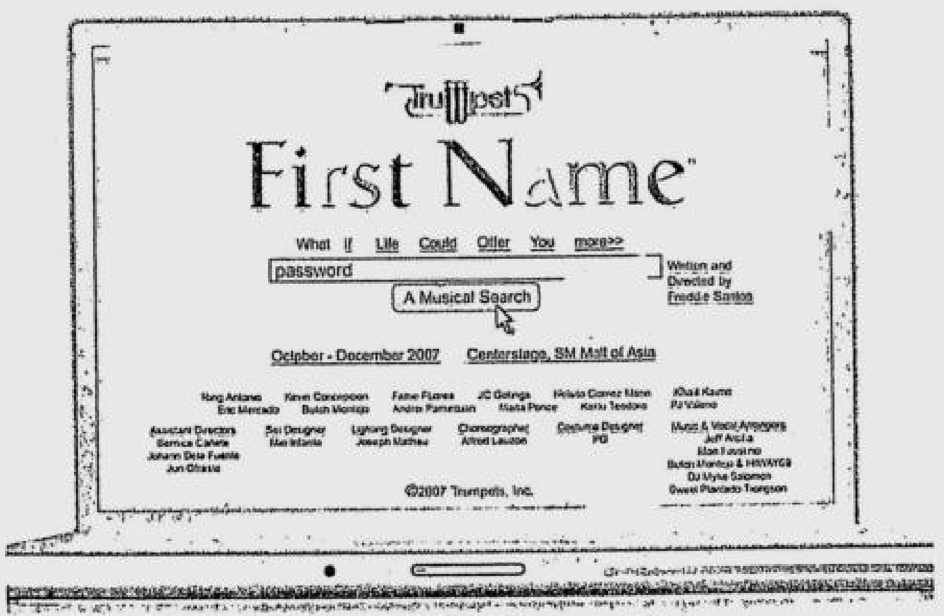
SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 HALLOWEEN
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CINEMA CENTERStage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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE SEEKER: HIDE & SEEK
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 UNREST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ATAUL FOR RENT
8 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3.
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 APAT, DAPAT, DAPAT APAT,
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 GHOST SON
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340011

1 RETRIBUTION
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 DECEMBER BOYS/
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 UNREST
2 HALLOWEEN
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 EVENING
7 **RESERVED**
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 STARDUST
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE AND SEEK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE-LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHOW TIME

College bands compete

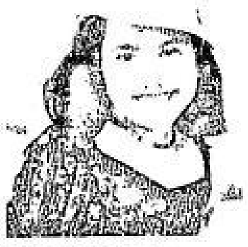
THIRTEEN COLLEGE bands vie for the top prize in the Nescafe Soundskool finals on Nov. 10 at the Ultra in Pasig.

The winning group gets P250,000 cash, a recording contract with EMI Philippines and P150,000 worth of music equipment for the school.

Guest bands include Urbandub, Sandwich, Hale and Itchyworms. Tickets at P50 each.

'First Time'

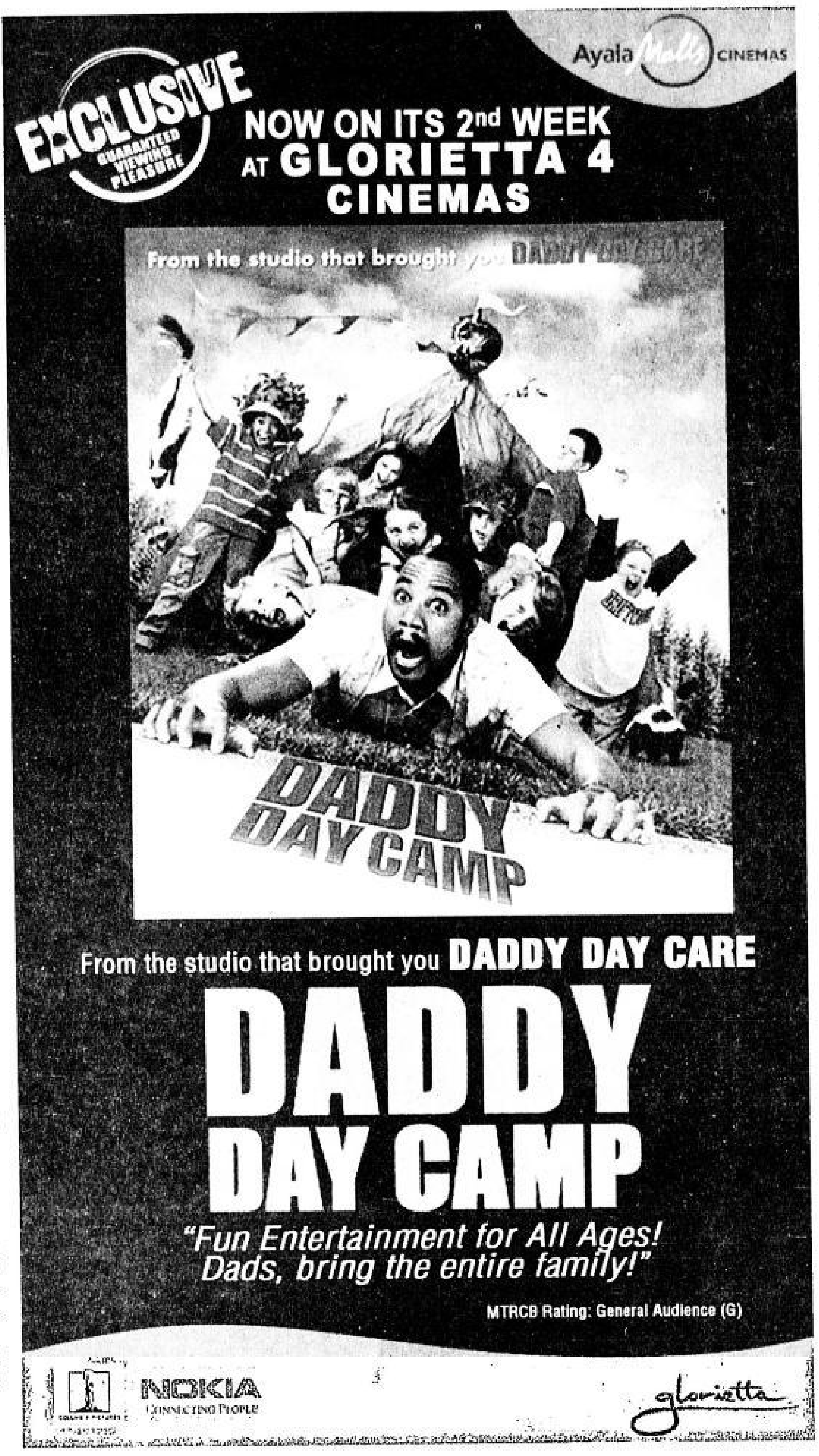
Ten-year-old singer Farizzha Diro performs live in "First Time" on Nov. 11, 2 p.m. at SM City North Edsa, Quezon City.



FARIZZHA Diro

Guests include students from the People's Music Training Center, where Farizzha is currently enrolled.

For more details, call 454-0078 or e-mail PMTC08@yahoo.com.



Ayala Malls CINEMAS
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NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
From the studio that brought you DADDY DAY CARE
DADDY DAY CAMP
"Fun Entertainment for All Ages! Dads, bring the entire family!"
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
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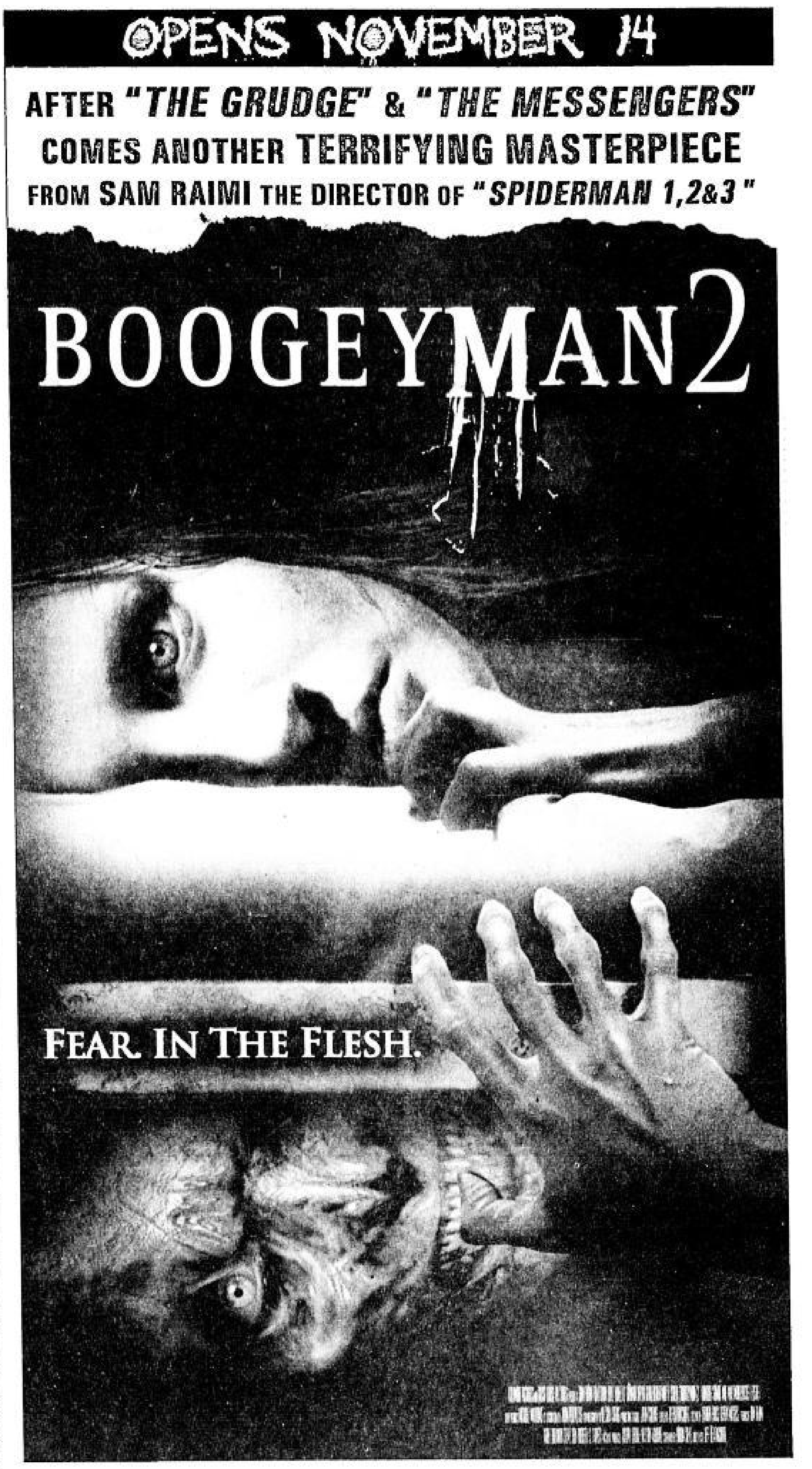
glorietta



OPENS NOVEMBER 14
AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS" COMES ANOTHER TERRIFYING MASTERPIECE FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"
BOOGEYMAN 2
FEAR. IN THE FLESH.

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1	LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	2	THE GAME PLAN	
	3	BALLS OF FURY	
	4	ATAUL FOR RENT	
GLORIETTA 4	1	WE OWN THE NIGHT	
	2	EL CANTANTE	
	3 THX	LIONS FOR LAMBS	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	LUST CAUTION	
	5	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	
	6	THE GAME PLAN	
	7	RENDITION	
GREENBELT 1	1	LUST CAUTION	
	2	EL CANTANTE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	LIONS FOR LAMBS	GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	THE GAME PLAN	GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	LUST CAUTION	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	30 DAYS OF NIGHT	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	WE OWN THE NIGHT	GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	THE GAME PLAN	
	2	LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	3	WE OWN THE NIGHT	
	4	LUST CAUTION	
	5	EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	WE OWN THE NIGHT	
	2	BALLS OF FURY	
	3	WEDDING DAZE	
	4	HALLOWEEN	
MARKET! MARKET!	1	THE GAME PLAN	
	2	LUST CAUTION	
	3	EL CANTANTE	
	4	LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	5	WE OWN THE NIGHT	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1	LUST CAUTION	
	2	EL CANTANTE	
	3	WE OWN THE NIGHT	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	LIONS FOR LAMBS	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	BALLS OF FURY	
	6	30 DAYS OF NIGHT	
	7 THX	THE GAME PLAN	GUARANTEED SEATS

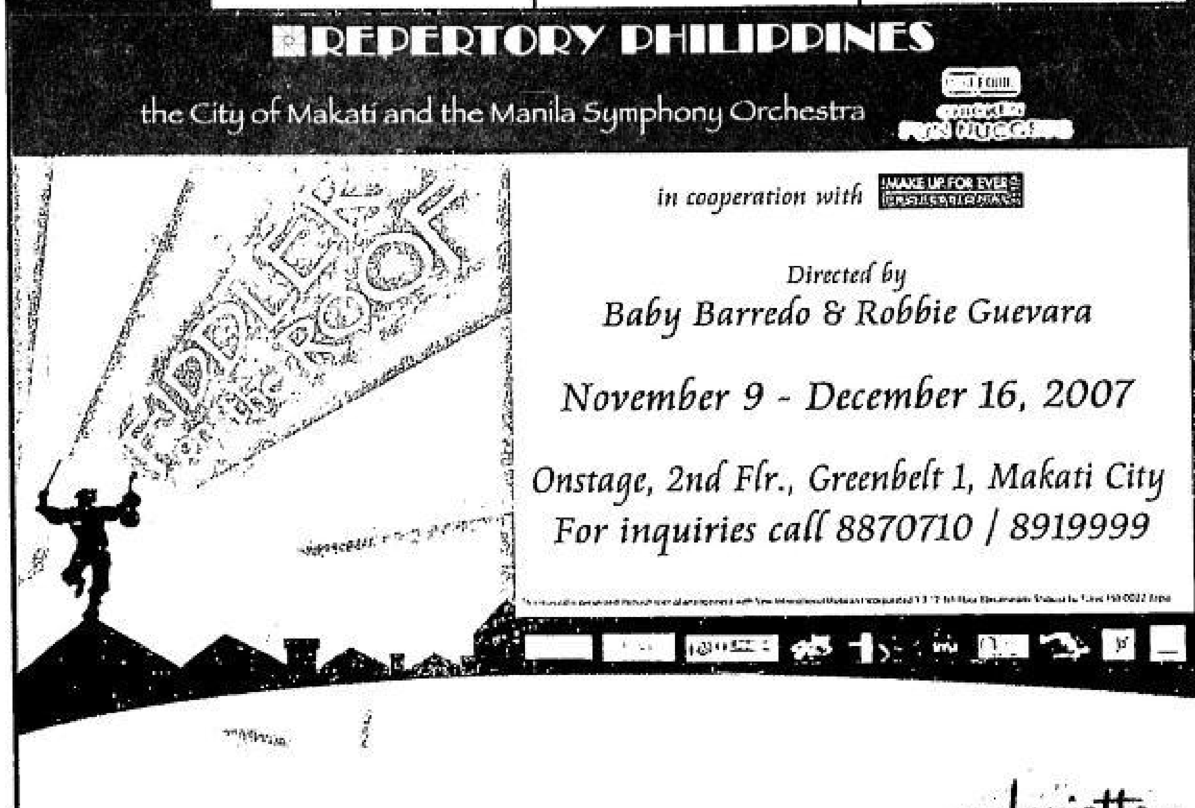
AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

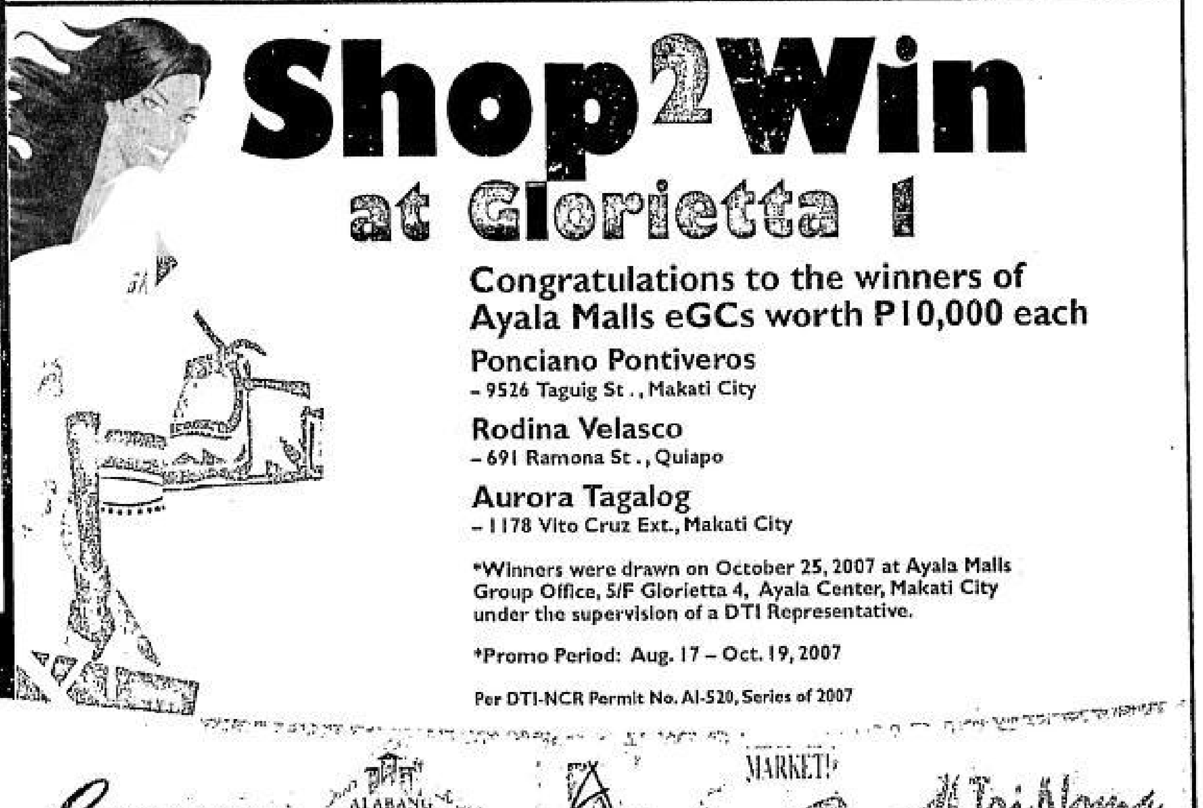
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Home for the Holidays Outlet Sale November 5 to 8; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kuh Ledesma with the UP Jazz Ensemble November 4; 6pm; Activity Center



REPERTORY PHILIPPINES
the City of Makati and the Manila Symphony Orchestra
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER
Directed by
Baby Barredo & Robbie Guevara
November 9 - December 16, 2007
Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1, Makati City
For inquiries call 8870710 / 8919999

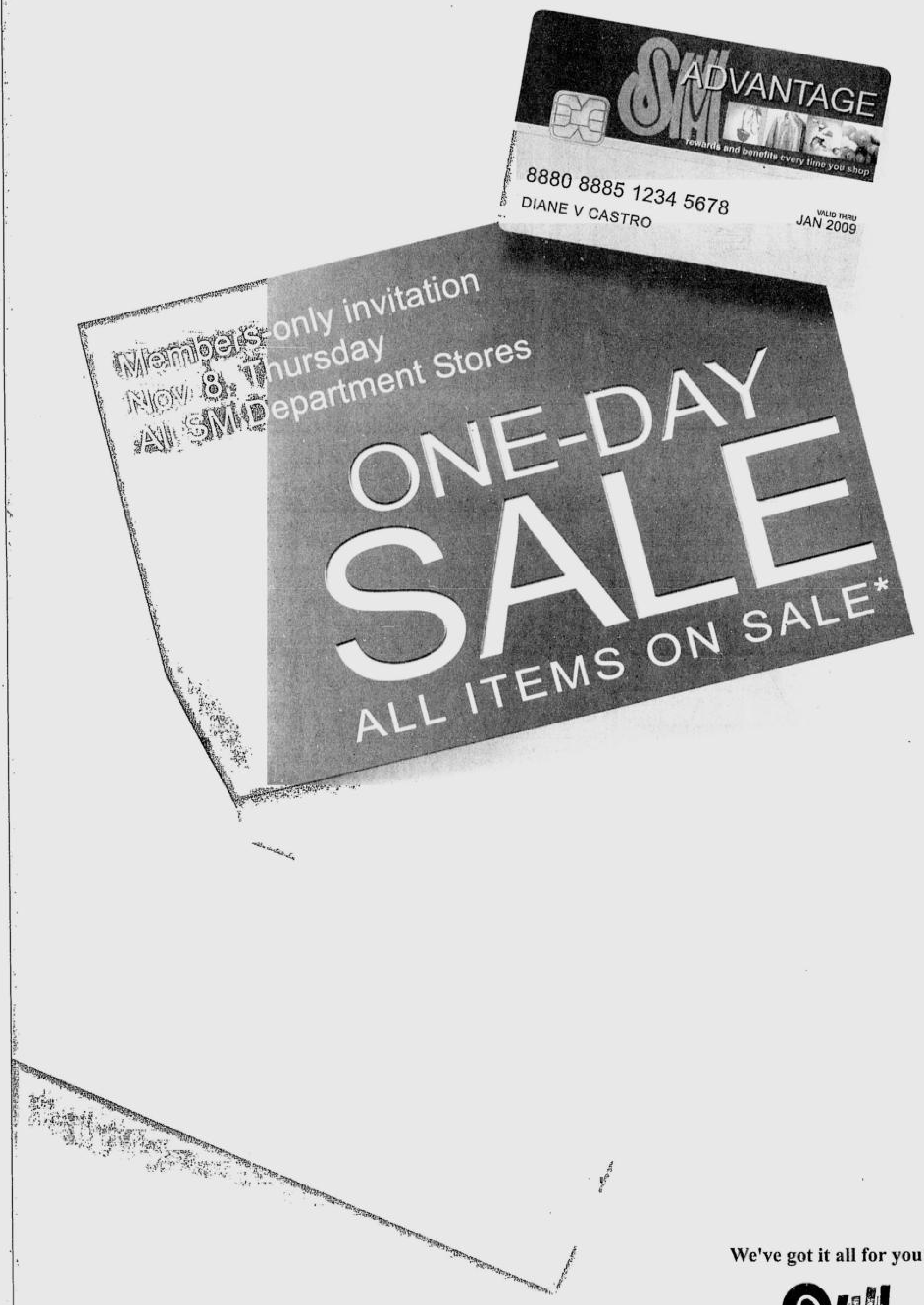


Shop2Win at Glorietta 1
Congratulations to the winners of Ayala Malls eGCs worth P10,000 each
Ponciano Pontiveros
- 9526 Taguig St., Makati City
Rodina Velasco
- 691 Ramona St., Quiapo
Aurora Tagalog
- 1178 Vito Cruz Ext., Makati City
*Winners were drawn on October 25, 2007 at Ayala Malls Group Office, 5/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City under the supervision of a DTI Representative.
*Promo Period: Aug. 17 – Oct. 19, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-520, Series of 2007
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Whole Day Shopping Treat for SM Advantage Members

In what has become an annual shopping event. SM Department Stores nationwide are again treating SM Advantage and SM Prestige members to an exclusive Members-Only Sale on Thursday, November 8, 2007. Millions of card-carrying members are expected to troop to all 30 branches of SM Department Store to take advantage of special discounts on practically all items in the store.

SM Advantage is the SM Retail Group's customer loyalty program that rewards members every time they shop at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Hypermarket, and other SM retail affiliates, such as: Ace Hardware, Kultura, Surplus Shop, Toy Kingdom, Watsons, SM Appliance Center, Our Home, Baby & Co., Sports Central, Factory Sale Outlet and selected branches of Levi's, Dockers and Adidas. With close to four million members, SM Advantage is now the country's biggest customer loyalty program.



We've got it all for you!

DEPARTMENT STORE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5414, Series of 2007.

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA • BACOLOD

Aside from reward points, SM Advantage members also get exclusive perks and privileges like discounts and freebies at partner establishments both inside and outside SM Malls.

Free gift with your new card

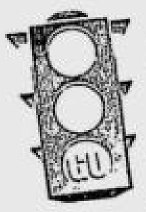
Renew your SM Advantage membership today and get a free Skin Care Duo composed of (1) Revitalizing Hand & Body Lotion, and (2) Refreshing Hand Sanitizer. Offer until Jan. 31, 2008.

SMAC treats

Avail of exciting perks and freebies you can share with family and friends. Simply present your SM Advantage Card at participating establishments both inside and outside SM Malls.

P100,000 insurance protection from Philam

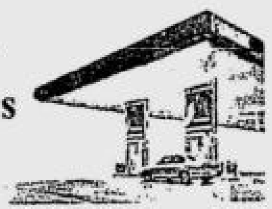
SM Advantage members (ages 18 to 65 years) who have accumulated 70 reward points are automatically enrolled in Philam's P100,000 Personal Accident Insurance package for one-year, for only 20 points.



Earn more points at Autohub

Get as much as 600 reward points when you avail of automotive products & services of the Autohub Group.

Gas up for more points at Petron

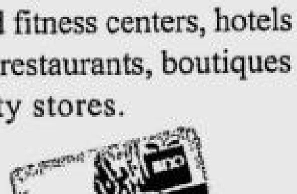


Add to your reward points when you gas up and present your SM Advantage, SM Prestige Card or BDO Rewards Card at any of over 300 Petron service stations nationwide.

Premium shopping for elite cardholders

SM Prestige, the elite membership program of SM Advantage offers members first rate privileges over and above those enjoyed by regular SM Advantage Cardholders.

- **premium shopping conveniences** include use of Prestige Lounge, Valet Shopping and priority fitting rooms at SM Department Store, Special Assistance at Toy Kingdom, Priority Check out lanes at SM Supermarket and SM Hypermarket and Free Delivery (min. purchase of P50,000) at SM Appliance Center.
- **lifestyle privileges** in leading spas and fitness centers, hotels and resorts, restaurants, boutiques and specialty stores.



BDO Rewards Cardholders also enjoy this special offer

For inquiries you may call the SM Advantage Hotline:
Metro Manila: 833-8888
Outside Metro Manila: 1-800-1888-SMAC

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* This promo does not apply to items purchased at Snack Exchange, Camera Shop and Customer Service Counter, and also to items like chemicals, batteries, toiletries, diapers, pharmacy, small appliances, business machines and other promo items.